Chair’s Column
by Nancy Quesada, Texas
LRL Chairperson

Happy Spring and Summer everyone! I hope that your legislative sessions have ended by now, or that you are at least on a break. Doubtless you are even now sitting by the pool, nibbling bon-bons, sipping some iced beverage, and reading your Newsline from cover to cover!

While you are in your reverie by the pool, let your imagination go wild, and create a logo or symbol for our LRL Staff Section. We would like to devise a logo to use on the LRL web page, and perhaps on the Newsline and other publications, as well. You may submit a drawing, or a description of the suggested logo to Rita Thaemert. We look forward to seeing the designs and ideas and hope that this will be a fun project. (Need more ice for your drink?)

The work of the Nominating Committee for the Legislative Staff Achievement Awards has concluded, and the award recipients will be announced at Annual Meeting. In addition to selecting the recipients, this committee was charged with devising the award criteria, so their task was doubly difficult. Thank you Clare Cholik (SD), Marilyn Cathcart (MN), Anne Rottmann (MO), and Sally Reynolds (TX) for your hard work on this committee, and for contributing your time and effort to serve our staff section in this way.

Another Nominating Committee has now begun to work recommending the LRL Staff Section officers for the coming year. Their recommendations will also be announced at Annual Meeting. Susan Gilley (OK), will chair the committee. Other members are Beth Furbush (MT) and Joyce Grimes (SC). Thank you to the members of this committee for your willingness to serve our staff section. We look forward to your recommendations. Annual Meeting also gives members of our staff section the opportunity to seek election as a member of the NCSL Executive Committee. Sally Reynolds (TX) concludes her three-year term at Philadelphia, and Jonetta Douglas (IA) is on the Nominating Committee.

With the end of Sally’s term, LRL could be without representation on the Executive Committee. But Clare Cholik (SD) is running, and we encourage you to support her candidacy by sending a letter to Patrick O’Donnell (NE), Chair of the Nominating Committee, with a cc: to Anne Walker (MO), incoming Staff Chair, both in care of NCSL. I encourage you to consider this opportunity to serve the staff section.

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The time for Annual Meeting in Philadelphia (August 6-9) is fast approaching. I hope that you will look over the schedule for the meeting, as it promises to be quite rewarding. I am especially looking forward to visiting the legislative library in nearby Trenton, NJ. I encourage everyone to attend the meeting. Please be sure to register early, and don't delay in making hotel reservations, as hotel space is a little tight this year.

Also, please let Rita Thaemert or me know if you are planning to attend Annual Meeting as we need to finalize preparations. You may contact Rita at 303-830-2200 (e-mail rita.thaemert@ncsl.org), or me at 512-463-1250(e-mail nancy.quesada@tlc.state.tx.us).

Finally, Annual Meeting concludes my year as Chair of the staff section. Thank you for giving me this opportunity, as I have found it quite rewarding. I have a greater appreciation for the work of my colleagues in other states and the triumphs and tribulations that we all have. Clare Cholik, Jonetta Douglas, Anne Rottmann, and Rita Thaemert are treasures, and I have enjoyed working with them this year. I look forward to the year ahead and wish Jonetta the very best. Thank you again, and I hope to see you in Philadelphia. Yours, from deep in the heart of Texas, Nancy (Please pass the bon-bons and the ice).
Sen. Don Wesely (NE) reported on Assembly of State Issues and said the meeting in April in San Francisco was very successful. He also stated that the Strategic Planning Task Force of LSCC had been working very hard to try to continue the success of ASI.

There was a brief update on Annual Meeting in Philadelphia. Russ Larson reported on the task forces of LSCC.

With no further business the meeting was adjourned.

Coordinators’ Corner

Much of the news in Newsline is gathered by a dedicated team of coordinators who call and fax to libraries and librarians in their regions to get the latest news and ask preassigned questions of interest to us all.

Here are queries for this issue. Please complete at least one of the following statements:
1. In considering the LRL staff section's Newsline
   a. I like the ___.
   b. I wish Newsline ___.
   c. I would like to see Newsline ___.
Optional bonus question # 2 - just for fun:
2. Newsline is fine, but what I really want is/are:
   a. chocolate
   b. diamonds
   c. great Mexican food
   d. all of the above
   e. other (please specify)

Coordinator MARIAN ROGERS, Wisconsin Legislative Reference Bureau.

Wisconsin: Staff of the Legislative Reference Bureau Library
1. In Newsline a) We like the minutes about various committee/task force meetings. Also enjoy reading about various happenings in LRLs; b) We wish the Newsline would spotlight new reference sources LRLs have found. c) We would like to see Newsline add Web addresses librarians have found helpful and provide a brief description of the type of information found. 2. The Newsline newsletter is fine, but what we really want is/are: Chocolate 2 votes, all of the above 2 votes, and diamonds 1 vote.

Ohio: Debbie Tavenner, Ohio Legislative Service Commission
1. I like the summaries of meetings and appreciate the listing of new NCSL publications, so I can check to see if the library has received everything it is supposed to have.

Illinois: Taran Ley, Illinois, Legislative Research Unit
1. a) I like the news from the other states. It's great to hear who is adding some new service or technological advancement. b) I wish Newsline would publish a list of the librarians' E-mail address on one handy sheet with the states in alpha order. 2. I'm so overcome with these options I don't know what to say!!

Missouri: Anne Rottmann, Missouri Legislative Library
1. a) I like the organization of the Newsline, b) I wish the Newsline had a little more updated look. There also used to be a column of new publications, not just NCSL, or mentions of articles that were useful. 2. 1 vote for chocolate, 1 vote for diamonds and 1 vote for other (publisher's clearinghouse, lotto America, or any other nonskilled contest that pays beaucoup bucks! ) EDITOR'S NOTE: I would hate to institute voter registration, but didn't casting more than one vote in elections get some people in trouble?

Coordinator JENNIFER BERNIER, Connecticut Legislative Library

Connecticut, Susan Southworth and Barbara Karp, Connecticut Legislative Library
1. I like the coordinator's news. 2. One vote for diamonds; one vote for other--money for college tuition.

Deb Priest, New York, Assembly Information Center
1. a) I like the gossip; b) I wish Newsline had a Dave Barry column; and c) I would like to see Newsline take a problem or issue from someone and have 3-4 comments as solutions/suggestions. 2. One vote for other--one-way ticket out of New York.
Hank Ilnicki, New York, State Library
1. a) I like the Coordinators corner with ideas from other states. This information helps to keep up with activities of colleagues in other states. It is important to have a central source through which we can funnel our achievements. The end of this product will provide our patrons with better services. c) I would like to see Newsline indexed at 1, 5, or 10 year intervals. An automated system would allow greater flexibility to locate specific information. Any volunteers?

Ellen Breslin, New York, Legislative Library
1. I like reading Newsline.

Lynn Randall, Maine, State Law Library
I especially like the profiles of member libraries and news about what's happening in member libraries. I also really like the summaries of programs that I wasn't able to attend. c) Could we consider an online discussion group? Perhaps something like NALIT has now. I do have to admit I still really like having the newsletter in paper. We can share paper more easily, it seems.

Michael Chernick, Vermont Legislative Council
1. I like the Newsline publication and find it to be very informative regarding legislative research library activities and plans in different states.

Pam Schofield, Massachusetts, State Library
1. a) I like the newsletter and subjects covered, plus the funny questions people gave in a recent issue.

Coordinator JEANNE BURKE, Nebraska, Legislative Reference Library

Clare Cholik, South Dakota, Legislative Research Council
1. a) I like the questions posed to the members by the regional coordinators. I think it gives us a real opportunity to share information and ideas that we may not otherwise share, b) I wish the Newsline contained more input from LRL members. I think it would be great if more members submitted articles for publications. Books reviews, for example, or articles on "lessons learned in a legislative library," c) I would like to see the Newsline contain more information on the happenings of the other staff sections. I think it is important for us to focus not only on our activities, but also on the activities of legislative employees collectively. We can learn from other staff sections and perhaps find ways to share resources or training opportunities. 2.

"Without hesitation," I vote for diamonds, "Them does not mean, however, that I don't still LOVE N. RHINESTONES."

Marilyn Guttrumsom, North Dakota, Legislative Council
1. a) The news from section members gathered by regional coordinators adds greatly to the value of the newsletter. Good work, you coordinators! Keep the pressure on LRL persons to contribute (and on time); b) I wish Newsline would carry a regular column written by NCSL staff on changes made to and being planned for LEGISNET; c) In addition, I would like to see the list of publications expanded to include others besides those produced through NCSL.

At one time, we had a "What's New" column that did just that. Perhaps at annual or fall section meetings, LRL members would consider the value of helping to broaden the list. At least once a year, I think Newsline should remind LRL members of the State Information Network and their role in making it work. Now that I'm thinking on these things, wouldn't a short piece by Mary Bone at CSG once in awhile be a great addition about what's happening with her organization?

Jeanne Burke, Nebraska
1. a) I like the summaries of various NCSL section meetings, NCSL publications, and information from the states; b) I wish Newsline would include short articles and "tips" on organization, computers, information sources, or helpful publications. (These can be contributed by NCSL staff and/or member librarians.) 2. Jeanne casts one vote for all of the above, plus request a vast knowledge on computer technology.

Coordinator JOYCE GRIMES, South Carolina Legislative Council

Cheryl Jackson, Virginia, Division of Legislative Services
1. a) I like the state-by-state comments section. It's a great way to keep up with our colleagues. c) I would like to see Newsline highlight particular problems or situations encountered in legislative libraries and how problems are handled. 2. Cheryl votes for all of the above and adds a vote for other--LRL bulletin board or chat room or figure out how to access them if currently available.
Joyce Grimes, South Carolina, Legislative Council
1. a) I like Coordinators' Corner. Since a great many of us are sole librarians, it's really great to find out what's going on in each state. b) I wish the Newsline would have a column that addresses different subjects such as marketing, innovative staffing, budgeting, preservation etc., a sharing of how to succeed guides. c) I would like to see the Newsline print a listing of Internet addresses of librarians.
2. Joyce votes for other--a listserv would be great! It sure would be a comfort to put a question on the listserv for someone's comments/opinions.

Coordinator JENNIFER BOTELER, Idaho, Legislative Services Office

Frances Enos, Hawaii Legislative Reference Bureau
1. I like the state reports--it helps me gauge our progress in providing information services to the Legislature. 2. I vote for chocolate, I vote diamonds, and I vote Mexican food.

Nan Bowers, Nevada, Legislative Service Bureau
1. a) I like the summary reports for Annual Meeting and Professional Development Seminars, b) I wish Newsline would designate which of the NCSEL publications on the list are automatically sent to state legislative libraries, c) I would like Newsline, each quarter, to have a state legislative library submit a short, descriptive report on their library. This report may include programs, staff, collections--whatever the reporting library wishes to contribute.

Jennifer Boteler, Idaho, Legislative Services Office
1. a) I like that the LRL staff section officers, NCSL staff, and other legislative librarians, are willing to devote all the time, energy, and work that it takes to produce a newsletter just for our profession. b) I wonder if it would be appropriate for Newsline to include either of the following features.

First, something akin to "Professional Reading" which could include short reviews of books or annotated citations of journal articles recommended by our colleagues. The materials could be related to professional development, like Developing Library and Information Center Collections, or they could be subject specific and something our patrons might be interest in, such as Campaign Finance in State Legislative Elections. The regional coordinators could routinely ask the state contact if they have any recommended readings they'd like to share.

Secondly, something like "Questions Answered," which could include ideas/suggestions on how to handle various situations/problems in the library, or answers to reference questions. Librarians could submit a question at any time to their regional coordinators, the coordinators could then forward the question to the editor so that it is posed with the next batch of questions for Newsline.

Dave Harrell, Oregon, Legislative Library
1. a) I like the length of Newsline, b) I wish it had a regular section devoted to useful Internet sites; c) I would like to see the Newsline obtain participation/input from all 50 states. 2. 2 votes for others: winning lottery tickets and more vacation!

Coordinator RONA MERTINK, Texas, Legislative Reference Library

Cindy Roupe, Kansas, State Library
1. The best thing about any communication between librarians is a comparison of what works.

Tracy Kimball, New Mexico, Legislative Council Service
1. a) I like the state news and anecdotes; b) I wish Newsline could be shorter and more frequent; and c) I would like to see Newsline focus on a topic per issue or for occasional issues (some kind of troubleshooting or project development report).

Jane Peterson, Utah, Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel
1. a) I like the review of conference meetings; b) I wish Newsline would focus more on timely issues and legislation--electrical deregulation, telecommunications, welfare reform, etc.; c) I would like to see Newsline devote an issue to Internet web sites for the state legislatures--what's available, etc. You asked for input on library web sites -- yet, many of us incorporate our input into the overall site for the state legislature. In fact, I would guess that many of us are Webmasters for our sites--and are responsible for design and content as well as responding to comments and questions.

Newsline editors must at times edit for length, grammar, spelling, etc. We make every effort to keep content accurate and inclusive. If you spot mistakes in your state's information, please contact an LRL officer or Rita Thaemert at NCSL. Thanks.
News from the States

Connecticut The Legislature has an independent web site: http://www.state.ct.us. Select "Legislative" to access: List of bills, Senate bills with titles, House bills with titles, (from these you can get bill history and bill text), Journals, Bulletins, and Calendars. The site is still a work in progress and not very sophisticated, but the intention is to upgrade very soon. Susan Southworth's e-mail address is lsouthwo@counsel.com (the first character is "L").


Maine Lynn Randall reports on the design and purchase of a new circulation desk. The desk meets ADA requirements, accommodates electrical connections for an automated circulation system, provides separate staff work areas and transaction spaces, and includes a real book drop. At the same time the staff rearranged the service area that resulted in a better traffic flow and a more inviting and open space. User comments have been positive. The desk was custom built by the Main Library Furniture Company.

The web site expanded to include new tables with votes on referendum on acts of the Maine Legislature and on initiated bills. The address is http://www.state.me.us/legis/lawlib

Michigan Janice Murphy reports: The Library of Michigan recently switched from NOTIS to III or Innovative Access for the cataloging system. LM and the Michigan Library Consortium recently negotiated a group contract to access First Search and Information Access Reference Gold for all of the libraries in Michigan. The grant that will fund free access will run for one year.

New Mexico New e-mail address for Tracy Kimball -- tkimball@state.nm.us

New York Deb Priest reports session is stalled over NYC rent control issue and budget negotiations.

Ohio Connie Yankus started May 31 as Assistant Librarian. Her telephone number 614-466-2241.

South Carolina Joyce Grimes has an e-mail address: http://www.jmg@legisl.lpirr.state.sc.us

Vermont Michael Chernik reports the Vermont General Assembly remains in session as of the Memorial Day Weekend. School finance is a major issue. In February, the Vermont Supreme Court, in a landmark unanimous decision, Brigham v. State, No. 96-502, Feb. 5, 1997, held the state's system of public funding unconstitutional. Vermont's system is largely based on local property tax and the Court found it violated Chapter II, Sec. 68 of the Vermont Constitution which provides that "a competent number of schools ought to be maintained in each town."

Property tax reform was a hot issue prior to the court decision and has since become even more of a priority. Reconciliation of the different versions of property tax reforms (H. 527) will continue into June. A copy of the decision, versions of H.527, and other legislative documents are available at http://www.leg.state.vt.us. The electric restructuring legislation (S.62) appears not to be headed for House floor action until next year. Legislators removed money for a legislatively technology center from the capital construction bill (H. 455), but funds remain to wire the two chambers for cable television transmission that will provide continuous transmission from the House or Senate.

Wisconsin New address for Home Page in the Directory,http://www.legis.state.wi.us/lrb/index.html Librarian Teresa Pellitteri reports that in early January, the LRB librarians made an automated online catalog available to staff and the public. Information Navigator was the integrated library system chosen by LRB. This system was developed by EOS International (formerly IME Systems). Plans are underway to give legislative offices telnet access to the OPAC, called LRBCAT, within the next month or two. In the meantime, many of the legislators and their staff are taking advantage of the new Selective Dissemination of Information service the librarians are able to offer them. As part of the new system, the SDI service allows for listings of new acquisitions to be run based on a user's research interests.
LRL at Annual Meeting
August 6-9
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Preliminary Agenda

Wednesday, August 6
6:00 - 7:30 pm  LRL Welcoming Reception

Thursday, August 7
3:45 - 5:30 pm  Jenkins Law Library:
841 Chestnut Street
Suite 1220  Lecture and Tour

Founded in 1802, it’s the oldest law library in the
U.S. LRL will be given an overview of the
collection of more than 300,000 volumes, including
Federal documents and 50-state statutes and
regulations; records and briefs of Pennsylvania
courts; audio and video tapes; and rare books. Also
included will be a look at their on-line catalog,
computer databases and CD-ROM network.

Friday, August 8
8:30 - 9:30 am  Bus trip to Trenton

A day of lectures and tours in Trenton, New Jersey.
Librarians will tour the New Jersey State House and
Annex that have just undergone a $100 million plus
renovation. Their’s is the second oldest constantly
working capitol in the country, second only to
Annapolis. Then Peter Mazzei, New Jersey
Legislative Information Technology Coordinator,
will demonstrate his design of the New Jersey
Internet homepage, software and access. He will
illustrate the CD-ROM LAN system and new
scanning technology.

After lunch in a fine Italian restaurant, LRL will
participate in a roundtable discussion with New
Jersey librarians from the three branches of state
government. Librarians from the State Library, the
Attorney General’s library and the Legislative
Library, will compare and contrast the kinds of
services they provide to their varied patrons. The
day in Trenton will conclude with a tour of the
library at Princeton University and a dutch treat
dinner on campus.

7:30 pm  Return trip to Philadelphia

Saturday, August 9
8:00 - 10:00 am  LRL Business Meeting

Professional Development Seminar
October 16-18
Santa Fe, New Mexico

Hosted by Legislative Council Service, there will be
presentations by New Mexico Technet, a one-stop
government information system; by the New Mexico
State Library and the Library at Los Alamos National
Laboratory; a look at a Native American Library
facility (tentative); and numerous tours in and around
Santa Fe. Start planning now!

NCSL Publications

Copies of all NCSL publications listed below are
available from the Marketing Department at
303/830-2200, unless otherwise noted.

BOOKS

Primary Care for Older Americans: A Primer
A Legislator’s Guide to Comprehensive Juvenile
Justice
Report on Foreign Spent Fuel
State Efforts to Improve the Primary Care
Workforce: Scholarship/Loan Programs and
Medical Education Reforms
State Funding Mechanisms for Environmental
Programs
Protocol: A Handbook for Legislative Staff
Adolescent Health Issues: 1996 State Actions
Campaign Finance, Lobbying and Ethics Legislation
1996
Oil Spill Cleanup Technology

LEGISBRIEFS

Term Limits Update, Vol.5, No.13
The Impact of HIV on the African American
Community, Vol.5, No.14
Environmental Indicators, Vol.5, No. 15
Alternatives to Traditional State Employee
Retirement Plans, Vol.5, No. 16
Property Tax Relief: Limitations on Property
Assessment, Vol.5, No.17
Gender Equity in Consumer Pricing, Vol.5, No.18
Preventing Delinquency, Vol.5, No.19
Alternative Fuels for Heavy Vehicles, Vol.5, No.20
Telecommunications, Vol.5, No.21
Managed Care and Public Health, Vol.5, No.22
Advanced Public Transportation Systems, Vol.5, No.23
EcoTourism, Vol.5, No.24
The 1996 Safe Drinking Water Act, Vol.5, No.25
Vehicle Air Bags and Children, Vol.5, No.26
Experimental Treatments, Vol.5, No.27
Options for Disposal of Low-Level Radioactive Waste, Vol.5, No.28
State-Tribal Revenue Agreements, Vol.5, No.29
Compulsory and No-Fault Auto Insurance, Vol.5, No.30

STATE LEGISLATIVE REPORTS
School-Based Health Centers and Medicaid Managed Care, Vol.22, No.3

The deadline for the Summer edition of Newsline is September 13, 1997. Send news about your library or significant legislative events in your state to your regional coordinator or Rita Thaemert at NCSL.

Thanks to the many staff section members who submitted columns and information for this issue. Newsline is published four times a year by the Legislative Research Librarians Staff Section of NCSL and is edited and formatted by Rita Thaemert.

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