Vol. XIII, No. 3

CHAIRMAN'S COLUMN
by
Jay Baxa, Virginia

Many thanks to Susan Zavacky for her leadership during the past year. It was a pleasure to work with her and I look forward to her counsel, as immediate past chair, in the coming year.

The Annual Meeting in Tulsa was a busy one for our section. We offered more programs for librarians than ever before, including tours of the Oklahoma Department of Libraries, as well as the Legislative Reference Division. We also visited the Tulsa City-County Library.

Our section was honored to have Hillas MacLean, Parliamentary Librarian of Australia, in attendance. At our Thursday morning program, he gave an engaging talk on the operations of parliamentary libraries "down under." We hope Hillas' participation signals the beginning of his involvement with the LRL Staff Section and the exchange of ideas and information with our international counterparts.

The Assembly on the Legislature committees offer staff section members opportunities to become involved in other types of NCSL activities, including the study of issues of common interest among the state legislatures. The AOL is a joint undertaking of state legislators and legislative staffs. Its officers include a legislator chair and vice chairs and a legislative staff chair and vice chair. Each of the 11 AOL committees includes both legislators and staff members. Staff members of the committees are appointed by the staff chair from recommendations of leadership, or legislative staff who are designated to nominate members. Committee members are appointed for a two-year term.

I know this year will be an exciting one for LRL, especially in view of the implementation of our first Annual Professional Development Seminar.

It's a privilege to serve as staff section chair. If you have any suggestions or ideas for our staff section, I encourage you to contact me.

LRL STAFF SECTION PROGRAMS
1989 NCSL ANNUAL MEETING --
Summary of Programs
by
Jay Baxa, Virginia

Sunday, Aug. 6
Librarians, spouses and friends were treated to a lovely reception sponsored by The Michie Company at the Tulsa Performing Arts Center. Following the reception, the group got reacquainted over dinner.

Monday, Aug. 7
Staff Section Business Meeting: The first
program on the agenda was the business meeting, at which the following topics were presented and discussed: The Nominating Committee presented the slate of officers for the 1989-90—Jay Baxa, chair; Susan Gilley, chair-elect; and Marcia Hoak, secretary. Susan Zavacky, chair, offered a report on the Legislative Staff Coordinating Committee meeting. Debby Bernau solicited comments concerning NCIL products and the first annual staff section conference to be held in Denver in December. Jane Peterson distributed a draft of the Core Collections document for discussion of the content and format of the final product. Surveys for the coming year were suggested, including library design and space requirements and automation.

Using Technology to Achieve Public Information Goals: The staff section cosponsored this program with the Leadership Staff Section and the Public Information and Media Relations staff. Ken Phillips, director of Information Systems, city of Santa Monica, and Rich Lovett, head of P.C. Support, city of Kansas City, discussed and demonstrated the public information systems that have been implemented in their respective localities. These systems provide 24-hour access to information concerning local government, city services and issues of local interest.

Tuesday, Aug. 8

Tour of the Oklahoma Dept. of Libraries and the Legislative Reference Division in Oklahoma City: Susan Gilley and Susan McVey provided us with an excellent tour of the state library and the legislative division; the tour allowed members with particular interests to focus on those. The program also included a tour of the capitol building and a luncheon provided by West Publishing Company. Mead Data furnished transportation to Oklahoma City.

Wednesday, Aug. 9

Professional Development for Legislative Staff: The LRL Staff Section shared sponsorship of this session with others. During the course of this session, speakers related their experiences with professional development programs within their agencies.

Thursday, Aug. 10

Information and Research Support for the Legislatures of Australia, New Zealand and the South-West Pacific: Hillas MacLean, Parliamentary Librarian of Australia, made an interesting and entertaining presentation on parliamentary libraries "down under." He discussed organizational structure and the libraries' interaction and interdependence.

Friday, Aug. 11

Staff Section Business Meeting: The final event of the 1989 Annual Meeting for the staff section was a business meeting. Following are highlights of that meeting.

LRL Staff Section participation in IFLA was discussed. Members were notified that the staff section might be asked to participate in a pilot project for an NCIL-sponsored electronic bulletin board. Plans for the 1989 LRL Professional Development Seminar were discussed, and Debby Bernau suggested that members contact her for further information. The election of staff section officers was held. The 1989-90 officers are: Jay Baxa, chair; Susan Gilley, chair-elect; and Marcia Hoak, secretary.

THE NEW YORK STATE LEGISLATIVE LIBRARY

by

Ellen Breslin, New York

New York's Legislative Library is conveniently located between the Senate and Assembly chambers on the third floor of the State Capitol. The Main Reading Room is an architectural treasure and a very pleasant place to work. The room was redesigned in the Beaux-Arts style after a fire in 1911 that destroyed a large part of the western wing of the Capitol building. The outside wall contains three full-length leaded glass windows, each inscribed on top with the seal of New York state. Hanging from the center of the room, in line with the windows, are three chandeliers of shell, crystal and bronze. The walls are of white marble with decorative columns, also in marble, which draw the eye up to the lovely murals surrounding the upper portion of the walls. Executed by William Low, these murals allegorically depict events in New York's history.

The room has style and grace, but it is also the center of a busy library that serves the research and information needs of Senate and Assembly members and legislative staff. Several small rooms, located off the main room and on three mezzanine levels, contain sta...
and cabinets of library materials. Open year-round, including off-session months, the library has a full-time staff of 10, including four professional librarians.

The library houses an extensive collection of legislative materials, some of which date back to the mid-1800s. Bills, journals, digests and session laws are all retained, as are bill jackets, which are a primary source for tracing the legislative history and intent of New York laws. Since 1983, the library has been microfiching both Senate and Assembly sponsors’ memoranda on introduction which must be filed when a bill is introduced. There is also a collection of hearing transcripts from both houses. Annual reports of legislative committees, commissions and task forces are part of our New York State Documents collection, which also includes reports of state agencies, opinions of the attorney general and publications from the governor’s office.

The library has a full collection of federal and New York State statutes, regulations and case law, as well as texts, treatises and loose-leaf services on various aspects of the law. These legal materials are augmented by access to WESTLAW. Patrons can be instructed on use of the system and conduct their own research or they can call upon the expertise of the librarians.

There is a basic reference section of directories, encyclopedias and almanacs and a collection of popular magazines, law reviews and policy journals. The library subscribes to most newspapers in the state and retains microform copies of The New York Times, Wall Street Journal, New York Law Journal and Washington Post. Publications from NCSL, CSG and ACIR are received and cataloged into the collection.

The Dewey classification system is used for all materials with the exception of New York State Documents, which have a unique numbering system. Creation of an on-line catalog is being accomplished in cooperation with the Legislative Bill Drafting Commission (LBDC). LBDC’s Legislative Retrieval Service (LRS) provides on-line access to bills, bill status, calendars, agendas and chapter laws. A series of databases on LRS have been set aside for the library’s catalog. To date, more than 15,000 state documents in our collection have been entered into the system and are searchable by title, subject, issuing agency or any other element within the bibliographic record.

In addition to WESTLAW, the library subscribes to DIALOG, VU/TEXT and WILSONLINE and has access to LEGISNET and ISIS. Use of on-line services has increased dramatically in the past year. Files on DIALOG that are searched frequently include Newsearch, National Newspaper Index, PAIS and ABI/INFORM. VU/TEXT is used frequently to access the full text of local newspapers, including many state capital papers. It also provides full-text coverage of regional business journals for obtaining hard-to-find information on people and companies. Due to the cost of on-line time and the differences in search strategies among vendors, the librarians search these databases.

The Legislative Library relies heavily on the resources of the New York State Library, which is located only a few blocks away. We have access to its on-line catalog and communicate almost daily by phone or FAX. Our cataloging replicates the state library’s and we cooperate on several joint projects. We also maintain close contact with both Senate and Assembly central research staffs, some of whom operate library or information centers.

If ever in Albany, please stop by the library to see the collection and our beautiful reading room.

1989 CSG McCarthy Awards
Selection Committee

Marilyn Guttrumson (ND) and Hank Ilnicki (NY) served on this year’s McCarthy Awards Selection Committee. The awards will be announced at the CSG Annual Meeting in December.

1989/90 Staff Section Regional Coordinators

Irene Stone (California)
Contact for:
California         Arizona
Nevada            Colorado
Utah              New Mexico
Pat Sloan (Nebraska)
Contact for:
  Missouri   Oklahoma
  Nebraska   Arkansas
  Kansas     Texas
  Kentucky

Valerie Richardson (Louisiana)
Contact for:
  Louisiana   Mississippi
  Alabama     Georgia
  Florida      Tennessee
  South Carolina

Frances Enos (Hawaii)
Contact for:
  Alaska       Washington
  Oregon       Idaho
  Montana      Wyoming
  Hawaii

Susan Sternberg (New Jersey)
Contact for:
  Pennsylvania Maryland
  Delaware     New Jersey
  Ohio         West Virginia
  Virginia     North Carolina

Hank Ilnicki (New York)
Contact for:
  New York     Maine
  Vermont      New Hampshire
  Connecticut  Massachusetts
  Rhode Island

Brenda Larison (Illinois)
Contact for:
  Minnesota    North Dakota
  South Dakota Iowa
  Illinois      Michigan
  Indiana       Wisconsin

NEWS FROM THE STATES
Submitted by Regional Coordinators and Members of the Staff Section

New York
Prominent library journals recently published articles by two members of the New York State Library Staff. They are as follows:


Oregon
Marcia Hoak reports that the Legislative Library is formulating a strategic plan as part of the planning process started several years ago by the Legislative Administration Committee. (Other units in LAC are Administrator's Office, Facility Services, Financial Services, Media Services, OLI (computer dept.), Personnel Services, Visitor Services). The LAC Strategic Plan established three boards: the Planning Board, the Middle Managers Board and the Communications Review Board. These boards have been meeting for over a year and have completed many projects, one of which was a survey distributed to users of all LAC services at the end of the '89 session.

The library received extensive feedback from this survey to incorporate into the planning process. One of the important points we learned from the survey was that not everyone knew of the library's existence, and many did not know what we do. Thus, outreach is a main focus of our plan.

The topics covered by the library's strategic plan are: mission statement; outreach; service enhancements; technical/operations improvements; and expansion of services. Each topic includes a cluster of goals and strategies to meet those goals. A timeline will also be attached to each goal.

ANNOUNCING A NEW NCSL VIDEOTAPE

"Restructuring Financial Services: Product Deregulation and Dual Banking after the Deposit Insurance Crisis" looks at the factors affecting the financial services industry and examines the regulatory role of state government.
An excellent article on strategic planning by Jack Bobbely ("A Perspective on Strategic Planning") appeared in the March '86 issue of Online.

GIFTS & EXCHANGES

The Maine Law and Legislative Reference Library has a complete set of 1987 NCSL Annual Meeting tapes to give away. Please contact Lynn Randall (207-289-1600) if you are interested.

REVIEW WHAT’S NEW

Have you recently noticed a book, article or reference work that might be of interest to other legislative librarians? If so, please forward the citation to Debby Bernau at NCSL for inclusion in the next issue of Newsline.

"Development Plans Slated for Innovative Line of Information Services." Information Today, October 1989, p. 8. [Discusses Legislative Information Network Corp.’s development of state legislative and regulatory data bases]


NCSL Publications

Copies of all NCSL publications listed below are available from the Book Order Department (303/623-7800) unless otherwise noted.


Opportunities in Community Corrections. 1989.


Legislative Finance Papers

Davis v. Michigan

Highway User Taxes

State Legislative Reports

"Youth At-Risk: Targeting Teen-Agers for Pregnancy Prevention" (Vol. 14, No. 10)

"State Abortion Laws and the Webster Decision" (Vol. 14, No. 11)

"Financing Water Quality: Nonpoint Source Legislative Options" (Vol. 14, No. 12)


"School Restructuring and Cost Implications" (Vol. 14, No. 14)

NEXT ISSUE OF NEWSLINE

The deadline for submission of information for the April 1990 issue of Newsline is March 9, 1990. Please send information on developments in your library, legislature or state to Debby Bernau at NCSL, or to your regional coordinator by that date. Thanks to the many staff section members who submitted information for this issue.
CHANGES TO THE 1989
LRL DIRECTORY

Iowa
Add:
Jonetta Douglas, Librarian

Change:
Ruth McGhee, Librarian to:
Asst. Librarian

Minnesota
Change:
Marilyn Cathcart
(612)296-7857 to:
(612)296-7661

Montana
Change:
Sally Halverson to:
Beth Furbush

Ohio
Add:
Debbie Tavenner, Asst. Librarian
(614)466-7434

Pennsylvania
Change:
Thomas Duszak to:
Evelyn Andrews

South Dakota
Add:
Telefax
(605)773-4576

NCSL
Change:
Telefax to:
(303)893-0705

PLEASE NOTE: Mina Waldie (WI) is currently updating the LRL Directory for 1990. Please inform her of any changes, additions or deletions by Dec. 15, 1989.

UPCOMING NCSL CONFERENCES AND MEETINGS

December 8-9
Reapportionment and the 1990 Census
Orlando, Florida

December 10-13
Public Information and Media Relations Seminar
Chicago, Illinois

December 13
Financing Water Quality Programs
Washington, D.C.

December 13
Foundation for State Legislatures Roundtable discussion on solid waste issues
Washington, D.C.
December 13  
LEGISNET Training  
Washington, D.C.

December 13  
State Taxation and Regulation of Banking:  
Time to Reform  
Washington, D.C.

December 13-15  
State-Federal Assembly (SFA)  
Washington, D.C.

1990
January 5  
AOL Steering Committee  
Denver, Colorado

January 5-6  
NCSL Fiscal Chairs Seminar  
Denver, Colorado

February 7-9  
NCSL Leader to Leader Meeting  
Washington, D.C.

April 19-21  
Assembly on the Legislature (AOL)  
Boise, Idaho

May 17-19  
State-Federal Assembly (SFA)  
Washington, D.C.

Newsline is published four times per year by the Legislative Research Librarians Staff Section of NCSL. Newsline is edited by Debby Bernau (NCSL Denver).

LRL Newsline, Dec. 1989