Building CONFIDENCE

Henry Toll Fellowships build leaders

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**Executive Committee**

chair
Deputy Majority Leader Rep. Tom Ryder, III.

president
Gov. Paul Patton, Ky.

elect
Senate President Pro Tempore Mannie M. A ra gon, N. M.

president-elect
Gov. Dirk Kempthorne, Idaho

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Senate President Pro Temp John Chichester, Va.

**council offices**

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<th>P.O. Box 11910</th>
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**STATE GOVERNMENT NEWS**, ISSN 0039-0119, September 2000,

Vol. 43, No. 8 — Published monthly with combined issues in June/July and Nov./Dec.

Strict gun controls signed

New York Gov. George E. Pataki signed a package of tough gun controls into law Aug. 8 in the same room of the state's most famous inn. The bill signing took place at the Merillon Ave. train station where six people were shot seven years earlier.

Relatives of those shot attending the ceremony included U.S. Rep. Carolyn McCarthy, who was elected to Congress in 1996 after campaigning for gun controls. McCarthy, a Democrat, praised the Republican governor and said she would hold the law up as an example of bipartisan cooperation to save lives. Pataki praised Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver, also a Democrat, for having passed elements of the package over the past decade.

The package includes several provisions similar to landmark legislation adopted in Maryland earlier this year. One requires all new handgun purchases to be tested to ensure the markings they leave. Maryland was first to require such ballistics fingerprinting of new guns. As in Maryland, all new guns sold must have child-safety locks.

A provision, effective Aug. 8, makes New York the first to require background checks for all buyers of handguns at gun shows. The law also bans assault weapons and large capacity ammunition clips, raises the legal age to buy a handgun and gives a permit to 21 and makes it a crime to buy a gun illegally for someone. It requires studies of the use of illegal guns and of "smart gun" technology to restrict the firing of a gun.

Most of the new provisions will take effect Nov. 1.

No paid parental leave

Massachusetts Gov. Paul Cellucci, a Republican, vetoed a bill to give paid leave to parents of newborn children. The proposal would have tapped the state's unemployment trust fund to provide 12 weeks of paid leave to new parents. Cellucci said he supports the idea, but not the funding source. Instead, he suggested creating a tax credit for businesses that offer paid leave.

Missouri selects candidates


Division of power battle

Rhode Island Gov. Lincoln Almond placed a nonbinding referendum on the Nov. 7 ballot asking voters whether they support a constitutional convention. The convention would decide on the division of powers among the different branches of government. Almond proposed the vote after the state Supreme Court twice denied his efforts to increase his powers versus those of the Legislature.

The court July 27 upheld the Legislature's power to name members to the Lottery Commission. In doing so, the court also said the Lottery Commission had the power to expand video gambling despite the governor's opposition. The governor had challenged the commission's approval of 850 video slot machines at two dog tracks.

In 1999, the court voided a state Gaming Commission regulation barring legislators from serving on state boards. Votes in 1998 rejected a call for a constitutional convention. State law permits the governor to order the secretary of state to place any question on the ballot, however, the governor has no power to convene such a convention.
Campaign-finance limits struck

Vermont may not impose mandatory spending limits on candidates, a federal judge held Aug. 10. The judge also ruled that the state may not limit contributions from political parties and from out-of-state donors. However, the judge upheld Vermont's contribution limits, which restrict individuals to donations of $400 to statewide candidates and of $200 to legislative candidates. LaBelle vs. Sanders was the first test of Vermont's 1993 campaign finance law. U.S. District Judge William K. Sessions III said Vermont was bound by the U.S. Supreme Court's 1979 decision, Buckley v. Valeo, which held that candidate spending limits violated the right to free speech.

Vermont's law that restricts contributions and provides the option of public funding for campaigns took effect for the first time this year. The Vermont ruling, which will be appealed, affects the campaign for governor. Gov. Howard Dean, a Democrat, has restricted his spending to $250,000 in return for public financing of his campaign. However, opposition candidates who did not participate in public financing are no longer bound by the law's $300,000 spending limit on statewide campaigns. The ruling did not affect the public financing provision.

Revolt over voltage prices

California legislators in August called for rate freezes and other measures to curb rising prices for electricity. The Senate passed a bill (Assembly Bill 2290) to cut electricity prices in San Diego, which has seen a movement by consumers to revolt against bills that have doubled in two months. The bill was sent to the Assembly for further action. Under deregulation, the state gave up its power to control electricity supplies and prices. Democratic Gov. Gray Davis asked the California Public Utilities Commission to let San Diego residents stretch payment of their power bills over two years or more.

In addition, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission began investigating deregulated markets in July. The commission hopes to determine whether recent wild price swings are market manipulation or just adjustments to a free market. In New York, consumers of Con Ed saw their bills increase by 25 percent after the utility sold its power plants and began buying on the free market.

Universal testing required

Every high-school junior in Colorado and Illinois will be required to take college entrance exams this spring. In 2001, Colorado Gov. Bill Owens secured legislative passage of a measure requiring all juniors to take the ACT, a traditional test for college-bound students. The Illinois Board of Education in June approved a plan to administer the ACT to all juniors in the state's high schools, as well as a test to measure their workplace skills.

Supporters in both states said they believe the tests might motivate students to consider attending college. In Colorado, about 60 percent of the state's eligible students now take the ACT.

Cyber porn law voided

Virginia's law to protect children from pornographic and harassing material on the Internet was struck down by a U.S. district judge in August. The judge said the 1999 law violates the First Amendment right to free speech. The law made it a crime to use the Internet to sell, rent or lend sexually explicit pictures or written material to minors. A federal appeals court in June had blocked enforcement of a similar federal law to protect minors from pornography.
**Down home in Arkansas**

Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee and his wife, Janet, plan to move into a triple-wide manufactured home when repairs begin on the governor's mansion in September. The temporary home will have more personal living space than the mansion does — 2,133 square feet compared with about 1,200 on the mansion's second floor. The Georgian colonial mansion, built at a cost of $140,000 in 1939, is undergoing repairs and renovations that could take until December 2002 to complete.

The governor and first lady are taking the move in good humor. Blackie Harris told the media that people are telling them they are glad to have a governor down to earth enough to live in manufactured housing.

The three-bedroom, two-bath home was donated to the Arkansas Governor's Mansion Association by Champion Enterprises to raise public awareness of manufactured housing. The home was built in Ridgway, Ill., and arrived on the grounds of the mansion in August. Janet Huckabee said, "The governor's mansion will begin getting the restoration it needs and we will have a very nice place to live without the added expense of relocating the mansion's administrative and security staff."

**Online voter info**

Delaware at August launched a new Web site designed to help voters at the polls. The Web site, www.state.de.us/voter info, answers voters' questions about where they vote, what candidates are on the ballot and how to get more information about the candidates. Department of Elections Commissioner Thomas J. Cook said voters will be able to verify their voter information, view a sample ballot and contact the candidates. Nearly 60 percent of the state's residents have computers in their homes and all public libraries in the state offer Internet access.

**Demanding fair treatment**

Puerto Rico has given entire businesses to fill treating the U.S. commonwealth as if it were a foreign country. The Latin American government has signed a law that will prohibit government programs from requiring that businesses be treated as if they were in a foreign country. Many companies and franchises treat us as if we were in a foreign country. The new law was signed by Gov. Pedro Rossello on July 29th.

On Thursday, Quintessence spokesman for Puerto Rico, Kenneth D. McCullough, said the company has decided to stop doing business in Puerto Rico. "That means that products and services are expensive. We think it is discriminatory. We're U.S. citizens," he said.

The discriminatory treatment is even though Puerto Rico is part of the United States and uses U.S. dollars. "We're not a foreign country," he said. The change resulted in lower prices and increased the number of visitors using the service.

De la Llave said Law 10.1 gives companies a year to comply. He said, "We're trying something that is fair — to be treated as American citizens, the same as those who reside in the rest of the United States."

**Texas has tax holiday**

For the second year in a row, Texas residents can buy tax-free items for the weekend in August, just in time for back-to-school shopping.

Apparel and footwear priced up to $100 were tax-free at sales taxes. Shoppers also crossed the border from Oklahoma and Kansas to buy tax-free goods. A similar tax break is available in Oklahoma and Arkansas.

**Clarification**

The June 28 editorial of SXN carried a story about a tax break for computer software that does not tax access to the Internet. It is not taxed at all; it is not connected to the Internet.
Riled over restrictions

Opponents are promising to sue over Oregon’s practice of disqualifying petition signatures from voters classified as “inactive.” State law designates voters as inactive if they have not voted in five years. Election officials this year tossed out signatures on ballot initiatives from inactive voters, saying they were not fully qualified to vote.

However, election officials only denied a small percentage of signatures on statewide initiative petitions because the signer was called “inactive.” Three of the 21 initiatives failed to qualify for the Nov. 7 ballot for other reasons. Most names were tossed out because voters signed the same petition numerous times.

Secretary of State Bill Bradbury, who is up for a term in November, said he plans to notify voters when they are considered inactive and contact them that they need to update their voter registration to sign petitions.

Prison population soars

Prisons, jails and correctional facilities in the United States held more than 2 million people at the end of 1999, the Bureau of Justice Statistics reported in August. Nearly 74,000 inmates were added to the system in 1999. In addition, about 100,000 juveniles are being held in various facilities. The number of people imprisoned has increased by 77 percent since 1980, or by 60,000 inmates. One in every 11 black males in his late twenties was serving a year or more in prison. Blacks make up nearly half of all inmates with a sentence of a year or longer.

States sue over music prices

A group of 25 states is suing record labels and music distributors in federal court for price fixing on compact discs, cassette tapes and albums. Attorneys general for the states claim the companies, among the biggest in the music industry, conspired to prevent discounts from cutting prices on the products. Music companies in 1993 began imposing minimum-advertised pricing policies and withholding promotional funds from retailers selling at a discount.

Oregon foster care lauded

Oregon moves ahead on neglected children more quickly out of foster care than other states do, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services reported in August. The report says 80 percent of Oregon’s children leave and do not return to state care, compared with only 18 percent nationally. About 80 percent of Oregon children who cannot return home within four years for adoption, while only 33 percent of children are adopted so quickly nationally. Oregon adoption officials said that the 1999 data does not reflect more dramatic improvements made in the state since passage of 1997 legislation requiring placement of foster children in a permanent home within a year. The number of children in foster care in Oregon has stayed at 6,500 for the past several years. Nationwide, more than 100,000 children are in foster care.

Education gets tobacco payout

While health programs will benefit from most of the nationwide tobacco settlement proceeds, education also is receiving a share. No strings were placed on how states could spend their shares of the settlement and many are setting aside funds for schools. Among the programs, Michigan and Nevada opted to fund college scholarships with tobacco funds. Ohio will spend several billion dollars in settlement monies on new schools and repairs to old schools. Many states put settlement funds in trust funds. Kansas, for example, designated trust funds for health programs and children’s needs. Maine’s trust fund will support health-related programs and early childhood programs. Kentucky and Maryland also will use settlement monies for early childhood programs. Colorado devoted a portion of tobacco funds to improve reading achievement.
As the nation approaches the November 2000 elections, there are increasingly grim forecasts as to voter turnout. In 1992, only 55 percent of the voting-age public cast ballots in the presidential election. By 1996, that number was down to 48.4 percent, with an alarmingly low 30 percent of those ages 18-24 voting. This is only a bookend to the downward spiral in voter participation that has afflicted America since 1972. A recent survey revealed a shocking statistic: More than 50 percent of the nation’s children live in a household where neither parents or guardians have ever voted!

Kids Voting USA, a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization, is making tremendous strides to reverse that downward slide. Founded in Arizona in the late 1980s by a few business and education leaders concerned about the dire outlook of voting participation, the program has expanded into a national organization with the goal of increasing voter awareness among the young so that this interest may filter up to adults in the household. The organization has gained highly favorable recognition and recently was mentioned in a resolution introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives. The bill would officially make this coming Election Day on Nov. 7 “Take Your Kids to Vote Day,” an idea that Kids Voting USA has been championing since its inception.

Through educational programs linked with local school districts grades K-12 and a system of ballots that allows students to accompany their parents to the polling place and cast a vote, Kids Voting USA has increased the likelihood that everyone involved in the program, even parents, are more likely to participate in the democratic system. Its scope has doubled in every election since 1992, and come Nov. 7, the organization hopes to involve 5 million schoolchildren with 2 million actually casting ballots.

Earlier this year, Kids Voting USA was active in the key New Hampshire primary, with nearly 8,000 students casting ballots alongside their parents at official polling places. Gov. Jeanne Shaheen said, “If the program succeeds in getting students involved in politics, that’s one of the most important things you can learn as you go through school.”

In El Paso, Texas, County Elections Administrator Helen Jamison said: “Kids Voting is a great program. It gets the parents out to vote.” True enough, the organization’s efforts to rebuild and strengthen the tenuous connection America’s youth has to its democratic process helps the parents as well as the children.

Steven Chaffee of Stanford University said, “Kids Voting succeeded not only in building citizen competencies in the students who were taught directly, it had the same kind of effects, indirectly, on their parents.”

Chaffee, who holds a doctorate in
Communications, was one of the many academics and political science experts who did quantitative research as to the effects of the programs. “These findings are remarkable for their magnitude and consistency,” he said. “They far exceed our expectations.”

Communities with Kids Voting programs see voter turnout increase by around 5 percent, and in some areas as much as 10 percent, according to findings produced by Chaffee and Bruce Merrill, of Arizona State University. Merrill holds a doctorate in political behavior. The two researchers said, “In 1996, the percentage is solidly 5 percent. To be able to say that any one program is a factor for why 5 percent of the population voted is nothing less than remarkable.”

While the impact on the parents was remarkable enough, the impact on the children themselves has been even greater. In 1996, Diana B. Carlin of the University of Kansas, in conjunction with Kansas Secretary of State Ron Thornburgh, measured the program’s impact on students who subsequently turned 18 years old, against their peers who had not participated in the program. Carlin found that the 18-year-olds who had been involved in Kids Voting USA voted at a rate 8 percent higher than their peers.

Other findings by the researchers indicated that the programs eliminated voting differences across socioeconomic barriers. This is important because normally the affluent vote in much greater numbers than the less affluent. The program also plays a role in closing the “gender gap” in classroom social studies discussion, which commonly results in boys typically displaying more interest and a greater inclination for strong opinion than girls.

“Kids Voting managed to substantially reduce the gender gap in candidate/election knowledge by its very strong effects among girls,” said Jack McLeod of the University of Wisconsin. He holds a doctorate in social psychology.

Chaffee said, “Kids Voting acts to close the gap between socioeconomic levels, reducing the gap for all forms of communication to zero.”

Additionally, students in the program were found to be 30 percent more likely to pay attention to media news, 25 percent more likely to initiate political discussions with family and 25 percent more likely to express opinions about voting and politics than nonparticipants.

Kids Voting USA is taking an insightful approach to the problem of low voter turnout in America, getting kids involved at a young age with a program that ensures their future participation as well as increasing the participation of their parents. Kids Voting USA urges parents, teachers and administrators to get involved, get out to vote on Nov. 7, and give your children a connection to the strongest tradition of our democracy.
Elected officials can ensure that public colleges and universities perform to public expectations by selecting the right people for their governing boards.

BY RICHARD NOVAK

The governing boards of public colleges and universities are an important policy tool for a strong and effective higher education system. The boards link governors, legislators and the public with the college and university community and ensure that their needs and priorities will be heard.

Citizen governance — the system of college oversight by lay people who are neither university faculty or employees nor state government officials — is a hallmark of U.S. higher education. In partnership with state elected and university executive leadership, the system of governance can be an essential component of a healthy higher education system.

Richard Novak is executive director of the Center for Public Higher Education Trusteeship and Governance, Association of Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges. Neal Johnson, deputy executive director of the Center, also contributed to this article.
Even though governing boards serve as critical links to society and its needs, they must not compromise their independence in making educational policy. A governing board needs to engage elected leaders, the business community, alumni, faculty, students and staff in its policy-making process. Making sound educational policy requires that a board balance the public interest and other competing interests with the mission and aspirations of the institution or university system it oversees.

Robert Woodbury, former chancellor of the University of Maine System, said, “People in the university have more immediate concerns and defined roles. A good board with alert members can provide a much broader view of the university’s role within state priorities.”

For a board to maintain its policy independence and negotiate a challenging and changing political terrain, it must be made up of individuals who focus collectively on big-picture policy issues and avoid partisanship. Dale Zabriskie, a 12-year member of the University Board of Regents, said, “How boards respond to political pressure is important. We must be mindful that we sit right in the middle between the state and the institutions.”

The trustee leadership of the board must master skills such as advocating, analyzing, listening and interpreting, mixed with a measure of political acumen.

Too often, boards fail to successfully balance competing interests or to engage constituents and those with the most at stake. As a result, they are perceived as captives of special interests, such as the university administration or the governor or legislature. State leaders may call for an overhaul of the structure of governance when boards surrender their policy independence, when they appear unresponsive to state needs, or cannot provide the required educational services or executive leadership.

Recently, several states have enacted creative, positive changes in public higher education. These changes are intended to strengthen performance and accountability, while granting increased flexibility and autonomy to increase quality, respond to new student markets, collaborate with K-12 education on school reform and build sustainable partnerships with business to address economic development needs. Notable changes in these areas have been made in Kentucky, Hawaii, Maine, Missouri, New Jersey and Oregon. Such changes enhance board authority and responsibility for making educational policy and increase the need for strategic thinking. But to carry out this additional authority and responsibility a state needs lay boards of high-caliber trustees.

The vast majority of university and college boards are appointed by governors and confirmed by the state senate or full legislature. In only four states do voters in general elections choose university boards. Because strong state university systems require effective governing boards to make policy, what should elected leaders consider when making board appointments, and what improvements to selection processes should state leaders contemplate? The Association of Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges’ Center for Public Higher Education Trusteeship and Governance suggests the following ideas and strategies:

1) Send a clear signal that merit comes first in appointing governing board members for public universities. Governors should recruit and appoint civic and business leaders, as well as educators and others of stature, who understand the broad role of public higher education in society. The most effective trustees and regents have the knowledge base — and the leadership and listening skills — to craft effective policy in a rapidly evolving environment. In addition, governors should seriously consider reappointing trustees who have demonstrated their value to their board, institutions and community — even if political expediency or party affiliation argues against reappointment.
2) Consider creating a nonpartisan advisory or nominating committee to recruit, screen and recommend board candidates. Kentucky, Massachusetts and Minnesota established committees through executive order or legislation to recommend candidates to the appointing authority for vacancies on state institutional, multicampus or coordinating boards. The best of these advisory committees are guided by written qualifications for prospective members that are tailored to each board.

New Jersey permits its state college and university boards to screen and recommend potential candidates to the governor for board vacancies.

“We look at each individual college’s unique mission, goals and needs, and we look to the boards of trustees to assist us in identifying the most qualified candidates.”

New Jersey Gov. Christine Whitman

3) Ensure that public college and university governing boards have the scale, skill mix and institutional memory required to oversee complex modern higher education institutions and systems. Large or growing institutions or systems should have at least 12 members — and those with complex missions or policy challenges may need to be larger. Experience counts: Effective leadership is built on six-year terms for board members. Governors should resist legislative efforts to reduce board members’ terms or link them to electoral turnover.

4) Set clear expectations for board members. Board members should fully exercise independent judgment while formulating academic policy and balancing institutional and state interests. Rather than micromanaging, boards should allow chief executives and other administrators to get the job done. Boards should be mindful of their responsibility to provide the first level of public accountability for institutional performance, mission achievement, prudent expenditure of public funds and senior administrators’ performance.

5) Establish a channel for communicating state priorities to governing boards.

“The most useful thing elected officials can do on behalf of their constituents is to articulate a clear, concise and consistent set of basic expectations for higher education,” said former Georgia Gov. and U.S. Sen. Zell Miller. “The goal of these expectations should be to define how public education can and will contribute to achieving overarching state priorities.”

Elected officials should set an expectation for regular communication with board leadership and chief executives about how institutions are responding to state priorities, or how they are contributing to the resolution of major policy issues and problems.

6) Promote board orientation and education programs both at the institutional and state level that bring together regents and trustees to discuss their basic responsibilities and to attain a full understanding of state-level issues and funding priorities. An annual or biannual state education program — particularly in states with multiple higher education boards — can strengthen communication and understanding, clarify responsibilities and contribute to board cohesion and general effectiveness.

Resources

A part of the Association of Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges, the Center for Public College and University Trusteeship and Governance facilitates strengthened relationships between public colleges and universities and state governments by encouraging improvements in the capacity, performance and effectiveness of public boards and in the practice of citizen trusteeship.

By being a dependable and objective resource for state government and higher education leaders on the difficult public-policy governance issues affecting public colleges and universities, and by being an effective convener, collaborator and provider of information and service, the center stimulates needed reform of citizen trusteeship and governing structures, while respecting the different cultures and traditions within each state that it works.

This calendar lists annual meeting dates of associations serving state officials. For more information on a particular meeting, call the number listed.

“CSG” denotes organizations affiliated with CSG. Direct new entries or corrections by the first of the month to:
A li son Sp urrier
The Conference Calendar
CSG
P.O. Box 1190
Lexington, KY 40578-1910
(859) 244-8113
or e-mail to aspurri er@csg.org
Visit CSG’s Web site, www.csg.org or www.StatesNews.org, to see updated information and links to other organizations and host cities.

SEPTEMBER 2000

September 10-12 — Sunday-Tuesday
Women Executives in State Government (WESG) 2000 Annual Conference Excellence 2000: Performance, Innovation, Partnerships — Annapolis, MD — Loews Annapolis Hotel. Contact WESG at (202) 628-9374, www.wesg.org or e-mail: wesg@wesg.org
September 14-16 —
Thursday-Saturday
CSG/Council on Licensure, Enforcement and Regulation (CLEAR) Annual Conference — Miami, FL — Wyndham Hotel Biscayne Bay (Turner, Lexington) (859) 269-1802
September 18-20 —
Monday-Wednesday
Lieutenant Governors (NCLG) 66th Annual Meeting — Alexandria, VA — Hotel to be announced (Cousineau, Atlanta) (404) 244-8103, gmanning@csg.org
September 9-11 — Sunday-Tuesday
CSG/Southern Governors’ Association 67th Annual Meeting — Lexington, KY — Marriott’s Grif- fin Gate Resort (Purdy, DC) (859) 244-8103, whines@csg.org
September 12-14 —
Monday-Wednesday
CSG/State Leadership Forum — Lincoln, NE — The Cornhusker (McCabe, Lombard) (630) 810-0210

SEPTEMBER 2001

September 9-11 — Sunday-Tuesday
CSG/Southern Governors’ Association Fall Legislative Conference (MLC) 56th Annual Meeting — Lexington, KY — Marriott’s Griffin Gate Resort (Purdy, DC) (202) 624-5897, lizpurdy@sso.org
September 13-15 —
Thursday-Saturday
CSG/Council on Licensure, Enforcement and Regulation (CLEAR) Annual Conference — San Antonio, TX — Hyatt Regency on the Riverwalk (Turner, Lexington) (859) 269-1802
September 20-24 —
Thursday-Monday
CSG 2001 Annual Meeting and State Leadership Forum — Anchorage, Alaska — Hilton Anchorage and The Hotel Captain Cook (Hines, Lexington) (859) 244-8103, whines@csg.org

October 2000

October 1-7 — Sunday-Saturday
CSG/Council of State Court Administrators (COSCA) Midyear Meeting — Phoenix, AZ — By invitation only (Rockwell, Williamsburg) (757) 259-1841
October 1-5 —
Thursday-Monday
CSG 2000 Annual Meeting and State Leadership Forum — Dearborn, MI — Dearborn Hyatt Regency (Hines, Lexington) (859) 244-8103, whines@csg.org

October 2001

October 2-6 —
Monday-Friday
CSG/Southern Governors’ Association (SGA) 66th Annual Meeting — Little Rock, AR — The Excelsior (Purdy, DC) (202) 624-5897, lizpurdy@sso.org
October 27-30 —
Sunday-Thursday
CSG/Brian Stallings Fellowship Program — Lexington, KY — Hilton Suites (Powell, Lexington) (859) 244-8249, dpowell@csg.org

November 2000

November 1-3 — Wednesday-Friday
CSG/Northeast Recycling Council (NERC) Fall Meeting — Northeast New Jersey — Hotel to be announced (Bartlett, Brattleboro) (902) 254-3636, rbartlett@sover.net
November 15-18 —
Wednesday-Saturday
CSG/WEST Annual Meeting — San Diego, CA — Hyatt Islandia (Duvauchelle, San Francisco) (415) 974-6422

November 2001

November 1-3 — Wednesday-Friday
CSG/Northeast Recycling Council (NERC) Fall Meeting — Northeast New Jersey — Hotel to be announced (Bartlett, Brattleboro) (902) 254-3636, rbartlett@sover.net
November 5-9 —
Monday-Friday
CSG/Southern Governors’ Association Fall Legislative Conference — Coral Gables, FL — Hyatt Regency Coral Gables (Cousineau, Atlanta) (404) 266-1271

December 2000

December 7-9 — Thursday-Saturday
CSG 2000 Annual Meeting and State Leadership Forum — Annapolis, MD — Loews Annapolis Hotel. Contact WESG at (630) 810-0210, dpowell@csg.org

DECEMBER 2000

December 7-9 — Thursday-Saturday
CSG 2000 Annual Meeting and State Leadership Forum — Annapolis, MD — Loews Annapolis Hotel. Contact WESG at (630) 810-0210, dpowell@csg.org

DECEMBER 2001

December 7-9 — Thursday-Saturday
CSG 2001 Annual Meeting and State Leadership Forum — Annapolis, MD — Loews Annapolis Hotel. Contact WESG at (630) 810-0210, dpowell@csg.org

February 2001

February 2-5 — Friday-Monday
CSG/National Conference of Lieutenant Governors (NCLG) State/ Federal Meeting — Washington, DC — Willard Inter-Continental (Manning, Lexington) (859) 244-8171, gmanning@csg.org or visit www.nclg.org

APRIL 2001

April 4-9 — Wednesday-Monday
CSG/Spring National Committee and Task Force Meetings — Santa Fe NM — El Dorado (Hines, Lexington) (859) 244-8103

JUNE 2001

June 27-July 1 — Wednesday-Sunday
CSG/National Conference of Lieutenant Governors (NCLG) Annual Meeting — Louisville, KY — The Seelbach (Manning, Lexington) (859) 244-8171, gmanning@csg.org

JULY 2000

July 14-17 —
Monday-Thursday
CSG/WEST Legislative Service Agency/Research Directors (LSA/RD) Meeting — San Francisco, CA — Sir Francis Drake Hotel (Duvauchelle, San Francisco) (415) 974-6422
July 29-August 1 —
Saturday-Wednesday
CSG/Midwestern Legislative Conference (MLC) 56th Annual Meeting — Lincoln, NE — The Cornhusker (McCabe, Lombard) (630) 810-0210

JULY 2001

July 6-10 — Saturday-Wednesday
CSG/Southern Legislative Conference (SLC) Annual Meeting — New Orleans, LA — Hotel to be announced (Cousineau, Atlanta) (404) 266-1271, sicatlanta.org

JULY 2002

July 6-10 — Saturday-Wednesday
CSG/Southern Legislative Conference (SLC) Annual Meeting — New Orleans, LA — Hotel to be announced (Cousineau, Atlanta) (404) 266-1271, sicatlanta.org

DECEMBER 2002

December — Dates to be announced
CSG 2002 Annual Meeting and State Leadership Forum — Richmond, VA — Hotel to be announced (Hines, Lexington) (859) 244-8103, whines@csg.org

AUGUST 2003

August 9-12 — Saturday-Tuesday
CSG/Southern Legislative Conference (SLC) Annual Meeting — Fort Worth, TX — Hotel to be announced (Cousineau, Atlanta) (404) 266-1271, sicatlanta.org

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Summit covers conflict resolution

States are increasingly turning to mediation, consultation and negotiations to build consensus, Minnesota Senate Majority Leader Roger Moe told 300 people attending the first Summit of the States on Conflict Management and Dispute Resolution. Ambassadors representing 47 states and four territories were among those attending the summit June 8-10 in Lexington, Ky., convened by The Council of State Governments’ National Institute for State Conflict Management.

Legislators, governors and policy-makers at all levels have used alternative dispute resolution to reach agreement on contentious issues, such as restoring salmon populations in Oregon, protecting coastal land in Delaware and reforming school funding in Kansas, Moe said.

Kentucky Gov. Paul Patton, CSG president, said, “I welcome methods for governments to solve intractable conflicts.” Kentucky’s use of alternative dispute resolution for environmental disputes saves hundreds of thousands of dollars a year, Patton said.

Roger Fisher, professor emeritus at Harvard University and bestselling author, shared insights into successful techniques based on his successes in resolving international and other high-level disputes, assisted by John Richardson of Harvard Law School. Fisher urged use of brainstorming sessions as a way to get opponents to start the process of working out solutions.

Ohio Senate Majority Whip Merle Grace Kearns said with term limits new legislators only have eight years to get things done, making consensus building vital. “Term limits are adding to the difficulty of passing good legislation,” Kearns said.

A projected increase in use of alternative dispute resolution will mean savings for taxpayers, according to a survey released by CSG June 14. In the survey of 102 A.D.R. professionals from across the nation, nearly everyone one expected increased use of A.D.R. in state and territorial governments. Nearly three-quarters said that would save tax dollars, with one-fifth estimating savings of $5 for every $1 spent on A.D.R. “Over 80 percent of these practitioners said the use of mediation in state government improves the public’s perception of state government. They said A.D.R. cuts public expenditures and fosters collaboration instead of dispute with state government,” said CSG Executive Director Daniel Sprague.

For more information, contact Bert Harberson at (859) 244-8228 or bharberson@csg.org.

Public finance taught

The sixth class of the National Institute for Public Finance was held Sept. 5-9, at the Kellogg School of Northwestern University in Chicago. Sponsored by the National Association of State Treasurers, the Institute provides an in-depth course on public finance and balances theory and practice. Topics included cash management, debt management, investment policies and practices, and management of public-finance operations.

“The Institute continues the education and professional development of those of us who are finance professionals. It is invaluable,” said Colorado Treasurer Mike Coffman.

Utah state treasurer Ed Alter said, “The Institute faculty offer a wealth of experience to learn from — no matter how much experience you bring to the classroom.” Alter serves as an advisor to the CSG Finance Committee.

Information is available online at www.nast.net.

GovStoreUSA.com expands services

More than 600 state and local government jurisdictions have registered to use GovStoreUSA.com, a Web site designed for government procurement and purchasing agencies and individuals. The Council of State Governments cosponsors the site with the International City/County Management Association. Planned updates will allow members easier access to more detailed information about products and services. State officials and other CSG members can purchase information-technology products and services at a discount by visiting www.govstoreusa.com and registering for a password.
E-Government Leadership Award

The Council of State Governments has launched a national award to recognize technology in the states. The “Eagle” — E-Government Leadership Award will recognize innovative service delivery via the Internet by state governments. One application will be accepted per state and must be submitted by the governor’s office. Applicants must explain how the Web site provides services and describe its distinguishing characteristics.

CSG will recognize the “MVP,” best all-around state government Web site, as well as “Best Innovation.”

“This award program offers a platform for forward-thinking states to share information about their initiatives with state leaders across the nation,” said CSG Executive Director Daniel Sprague.

Deadline for applications is Sept. 29. Applications must be completed online at www.csg.org. Winners will be announced in November and recognized at the December CSG Annual Meeting and State Leadership Forum in Dearborn, Mich.

A global review

State and local officials from Arizona, Kentucky, Massachusetts, Michigan, North Dakota, Texas and Virginia discussed international affairs at a fellowship program hosted by The George Washington University’s Elliott School of International Affairs, June 15-17 in Washington, D.C. Participants considered adjustments to legislation to comply with international agreements, trade and investment challenges, and ways to address constituents’ fears and aspirations.

“Massachusetts has benefited more from globalization than most other states,” said Massachusetts state Rep. Dan Bosley, “but many of my constituents don’t see that.”

North Dakota agricultural expert Lance Gaebe said, “We tend to focus on the threats of being a border state, instead of the opportunities.”

Speakers included former U.S. Ambassador to China James Sasser and experts from federal and state governments, businesses, labor unions, nonprofit organizations and The George Washington University.


The program was sponsored by the U.S. Department of Education with support from the Business Roundtable and the BASF Corporation.

NAST celebrates 25 years

The National Association of State Treasurers held its first annual conference 25 years ago in San Francisco. NAST promotes the highest ethical standards, along with education and the exchange of ideas.

NAST is a powerful voice on public policy. Through the NAST Office of Federal Relations, state treasurers testify before Congress about issues that affect the states’ financial health. NAST and the College Savings Plans Network, an affiliated organization, won federal tax relief for qualified state tuition programs. State college savings programs are one of many treasurer initiatives to advocate financial education.

APPA marks 25th anniversary

The American Probation and Parole Association is celebrating its silver anniversary. Twenty-five years of success and growth has built APPA as the voice of probation and parole. APPA was founded Aug. 19, 1975 in Louisville Ky., and contracted with The Council of State Governments to provide secretariat services in 1987.

Today, the association represents more than 26,000 professionals from all job categories in community corrections. In 1999, APPA received a grant to operate the National Youth Court. APPA is leading the way in meeting the challenges and needs for the profession and communities.
Leadership training offered lawmakers

Thirty-three Midwestern state legislators and two Saskatchewan legislators took part in the Bowhay Institute for Legislative Leadership Development in Madison, Wisc., July 7-11. BILLD is produced by the Midwestern Office of The Council of State Governments in conjunction with The Robert M. La Follette Institute of Public Affairs at the University of Wisconsin. The program consists of seminars on leadership training, professional development and policy analysis.

Each of the participants earned a fellowship through a nonpartisan, competitive application process that is overseen by a steering committee of Midwestern legislators. For the first time, two legislators from the Canadian province of Saskatchewan, Carl Kwiatkowski and Pat Lorje, were selected as BILLD Fellows. Saskatchewan recently became an affiliate member of the Midwestern Legislative Conference.


For more information, call Laura Tomaka in the CSG Midwestern Office at (630) 810-0210.

When asked, “Should states pass laws to recognize same-sex civil unions?” 54 percent responding to CSG’s online poll said no and 46 percent said yes.

The September question:
Should states fund school vouchers?

To vote yes or no, visit CSG’s Web site at www.csg.org. The poll will be open Sept. 1-12. Check the October issue for results and the next question.

Chi writes on privatization

Keon Chi, senior fellow at The Council of State Governments, is the author of “Restructuring, Quality Management, and Privatization in State Government.” In a new book, Making Government Work, Chi concluded that states have used privatization as a practical tool for improving government productivity. Chi wrote that the success or failure of privatization depends on its use. He said policy-makers are ultimately accountable for privatized services and so should hold private providers accountable for both their service performance and management practices.

“This book features descriptions from the nation’s governors and big-city mayors on how to make government more effective and efficient,” said CSG Executive Director Daniel Sprague. “In the book, Dr. Chi is featured with eight of the nation’s most innovative governors. Chi is clearly a national leader in analysis of state governing and CSG is proud of his expertise and accomplishment.”

Chi is a regular contributor to CSG’s State Government News.

Two recent health policy forums offered by The Council of State Governments allowed state leaders to discuss health issues with national experts.

A forum on immunization registries, May 18-21, in Scottsdale, Ariz., addressed computerized information systems that maintain confidential childhood-immunization information for providers and parents. The registries help to maintain high rates of childhood immunizations and decrease infant mortality due to childhood diseases. Speakers included Dr. Jose Cordero, deputy director of the National Immunization Program of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The forum was made possible by an educational grant from Wyeth-Ayerst Pharmaceuticals.

A forum on medical research, June 12-15, in Boston, Mass., included sessions on organ donation, insurance coverage for clinical trials and experimental treatments, and drug spending trends. Attendees also toured a biotechnology facility. The forum was supported through an educational grant from Novartis Pharmaceuticals.
California hosts CSG-WEST

Western legislators will convene in San Diego, Nov. 15-18, for CSG-WEST’s Annual Meeting. Lawmakers can attend policy sessions, including an electoral review by CNN, domestic terrorism, Internet democracy, Western water policy, public lands, legislative fiscal challenges, energy and minerals.

In keeping with the theme of “The North American West: Three Nations, One Region,” the meeting will include a global perspective on the region’s economic, cultural and political ties, and discussions of common issues and trade and transportation corridors that occur along the southern border between the U.S. and Mexico.

Age Wave’s founder and author, Ken Dychtwald, will deliver a multimedia presentation on how baby boomers will affect future policy, politics and programs. Policy tours will be offered to a tribal community, the U.S. Olympic Training Center, San Diego regional water-storage facilities, an ocean-research center and regional agricultural businesses. An ancillary meeting will be held to talk about Western agriculture and the 2002 farm bill, and a discussion will be held of the impact of higher education on the new economy in the West. The National Hispanic Caucus of State Legislators will discuss reapportionment and the 2000 elections.

A daily educational program for children will feature the San Diego Zoo, the Reuben H. Fleet Science Center and Balboa Park museums. California legislators have planned family educational opportunities. For registration information, call (415) 974-6422 or visit CSG-WEST’s Web site at www.csgwest.org.

Dam conflict

CSG’s National Institute for State Conflict Management, in partnership with the Patterson School of Diplomacy and International Commerce at the University of Kentucky, has received funding from the U.S.-Asia Environmental Partnership for a $300,000 project in India. The two-year project will develop a model approach for the resolution of dam-construction disputes.

“We’re thrilled that CSG’s Institute will have the opportunity to bring conflict resolution expertise developed in the states and territories to our neighbors internationally,” said CSG Executive Director Daniel M. Sprague. “This project will increase CSG’s visibility in one of the most important economic regions in the world.”

U.S.-AEP is a public-private initiative that is jointly implemented by several U.S. government agencies, under the leadership of the U.S. Agency for International Development. Kentucky is one of six states to receive a grant this year.

CSG thanks Delta Air Lines for its generous support of this program.

For more information, contact Albert Harberson, director of the Institute, CSG’s Center for Leadership, Innovation & Policy, (859) 244-8228, e-mail: bharberson@csg.org.

New agricultural task force meets

The Council of State Governments’ Agricultural Policy Task Force held its first meeting July 15 in Chicago. It adopted a work plan and discussed trends in agriculture.


The task force will represent state government on national agriculture issues, promote the importance of agriculture to the U.S. economy and society, and guide CSG headquarters’ agriculture-related projects. The task force will work with existing CSG regional agriculture committees.

The task force passed resolutions encouraging public dialogue on biotechnology and addressing crop and property destruction by anti-biotechnology activists.

The task force in 2001 will host a national two-day forum for state legislators and agriculture commissioners to identify state government priorities for the federal farm policy.

Founding sponsors of the task force are the American Crop Protection Association, Dow AgroSciences, DuPont, Grocery Manufacturers of America, Inc., and Novartis Crop Protection, Inc. Pfizer Animal Health, the American Crop Protection Association and the Grocery Manufacturers of America, Inc., hosted meal functions.

For more information, contact Cindy Lackey at (859) 244-8163 or cindyl@csg.org, or visit the CSG Web site, www.csg.org.

Reports published

The Southern Legislative Conference of The Council of State Governments has released two new reports. Female Offenders: Special Needs and Southern State Challenges provides an overview of women under state or federal correctional authority and a perspective on corrections policies and programs intended to accommodate their needs. The report includes a description of correctional facilities, policies and programs for women in each of the 16 SLC states.

Drawing the Map: Redistricting in the South provides a historical perspective on the decennial process of redrawing state and congressional districts. The report provides a state-by-state outlook for the SLC region.

For a copy of either of these reports, contact the SLC at (404) 266-1271.
A commitment to continuous learning and improvement is the starting point on the pathway to progress for every institution, public or private.

That's why Kodak has strongly supported the Toll Fellowship Program.

The 2000 Toll Fellows come from diverse geographical, political and ethnic backgrounds. However, they have important qualities in common: an openness to new and untried ideas, a readiness to tackle seemingly intractable problems, and a willingness to learn from and work with others.

By bringing together emerging leaders from across the country, exposing them to the latest and best practices from the 50 states, and equipping them with creative new approaches to getting things done, the Toll Fellowship Program helps improve government in ways that ultimately benefit all Americans.

Proud of our continued association with the Toll Fellowship Program, we at Kodak congratulate this year's fellows and salute The Council of State Governments for this excellent program.

Daniel A. Carp
President & Chief Executive Officer

I know the future of state government is bright because the best and brightest are populating our state and territorial capitols. Just a glance at this year's class of Henry Toll Fellows is ample proof of that.

The sheer wealth of talent in states makes it difficult for our selection committee to choose among the numerous outstanding applicants to this prestigious leadership development program.

It is The Council of State Governments' hope that the Henry Toll Fellowship Program will better prepare these leaders for the many challenges states face. If past is prelude, we expect great things based on the examples set by former Toll Fellows, among them governors, legislative leaders, judges and members of Congress.

Like so many successful programs, this one is generously supported by both the private and public sectors — a true partnership. CSG thanks all its corporate sponsors and the state of Kentucky for their generous support.

Daniel M. Sprague
Executive Director
The time was the summer of 1987, as August eased into September. The place was the rolling hills of Kentucky horse country, the site of The Council of State Governments’ national headquarters in Lexington. Members of the second class of the Henry Toll Fellowship Program were engaged in discussions and problem-solving sessions that transcended regional boundaries and governmental divisions. The long and rewarding hours they spent in personal growth and professional development since have become a trademark of this prestigious national leadership-training program.

Among the selected 32 state officials that year was a state representative from a rural district in southwestern Illinois. Tom Ryder has come a long way since that summer, but the lessons he learned have helped him as he has become a leader in his own state and at the national level. He now is Republican deputy minority leader of the Illinois House and chair of The Council of State Governments.

Although the Toll Fellowship Program was still in its infancy, Ryder remembers the great sense of honor he felt at being selected as one of the 32 best and brightest among the elected and appointed state officials from the legislative, executive and judicial branches. The future CSG chair came to Lexington expecting to go through a week consisting mostly of fluff, but was pleasantly surprised at the reality. “What I found was that the Toll week was a difficult one. We covered issues, did lots of hard work and put in long hours,” Ryder said.

In only his fourth year of elected public service at the time, Ryder found himself in the role of an eager student, learning from unexpected sources. Among his classmates were agency directors and a judge. Ryder said, “Hearing their perspective on intergovernmental relations and listening to their ideas was great for me. Each one felt they could function better in their respective roles, if only the officials in the other branches would be more understanding and cooperative.”

Over the years, he has reminisced with many Toll graduates and finds that they all reach a common point of enlightenment. “Although the faculty presentations are great, about halfway through you discover that listening to other participants and sharing your experiences with them is where the real value and wealth of information is,” he said.

The Toll Program opened Ryder’s eyes to regional similarities and differences. Ryder remembers how the concluding presentations, developed and performed by the class members from each of CSG’s four regions, reflected the flavor and personality of each area of the country. Ever since, he has carried a deep appreciation of regional distinctions.

Ryder said that he was pro-
Henry Wolcott Toll

The Toll Fellows Program is named in honor of Henry Wolcott Toll, founder of The Council of State Governments and a Colorado state senator from 1922 until 1930. Toll, a Denver native, practiced law in Denver and served in World War I. He sponsored legislation to establish the first Legislative Reference Office in Colorado. To improve state legislative conditions across the country, Toll founded the first national association of state legislators in 1925. He compiled the first list of all the legislators in the nation and invited them to join the fledging association he located in Chicago in 1930. His association convened the first assembly of state legislators from numerous states in 1933 to resolve tax conflicts among states. In 1933, the association adopted articles of organization, forming CSG. Toll directed CSG until 1938. He continued to be active in civic affairs, receiving honors from many organizations. Toll remained CSG’s honorary president until his death in 1975.

How to be a Toll Fellow

Active state government officials and staff in the legislative, executive and judicial branches may apply to become a Toll Fellow. A applicant must be nominated by a top state official from the same branch of government and the same state as the nominee. A national committee of state officials selects 10 Toll Fellows and two alternates from each CSG region. A applicant must attend the week-long leadership development session held Sept. 29-Oct. 4, 2001, in Lexington, Ky., home to CSG’s national offices.

For more information, call Debbie J. Powell at (859) 244-8249, or e-mail dpowell@csg.org or apply online, www.csg.org. The deadline for applications is Feb. 28, 2001.
Jeffrion L. Aubry
New York assemblyman
Consensus builder

Assemblyman Jeffrion L. Aubry is driven by his desire to help others. He has worked in the public sector most of his life, and has served in the New York Assembly since 1992.

Aubry is working to reform his state’s mandatory drug laws, known as the Rockefeller Drug Laws, and re-establish judicial discretion in sentencing. He is also seeking reforms in the state correction system that would emphasize reform of inmates and increase their potential to become a viable part of society.

Aubry, a Democrat, sees his greatest challenge, and greatest joy, as building consensus in his community. The 35th Assembly District of Queens County, which Aubry represents, is one of the most diverse districts in the country. “Bringing together constituents from such varied racial backgrounds is tough,” Aubry said, but he welcomes the challenge as a means to help those in his community.

Despite his many accomplishments, Aubry feels his work in the Assembly has only just begun. Looking to the future, Aubry hopes to continue serving in the New York Legislature. He says, “I find the tasks here not only relevant, but challenging.”

When he’s not working, Aubry enjoys reading, sports (especially basketball) and spending time with his five children and five grandchildren. — LAJ

Richard H. Bagger
New Jersey assemblyman
Steadfast leader

Assemblyman Rich Bagger is described as having a quiet, yet forceful, style of leadership, and as a leader who is able to reach consensus through his patience and willingness to listen. These traits have allowed Bagger to sponsor nearly 100 bills that have become law during his nine-year tenure in the New Jersey Legislature.

Bagger grew up surrounded by people involved in public service and is a firm believer in the legislative process. “By reaching out, listening and applying intellectual focus, we can solve most legislative problems,” Bagger said.

Societal problems are often more difficult to tackle, he said, but by analyzing the issue and carefully crafting legislation, solutions can be found through the legislative process.

Bagger has made significant strides to improve services for children at risk. He combined his interest in human services and his fiscal skills as chairman of the Appropriations Committee to evaluate and accelerate the adoption process. In response to complaints from parents, Bagger also worked with the New Jersey Parents’ Caucus to provide a single point of entry into the state system of youth services to ensure that children receive the most beneficial services for their particular needs. “Confidence in government institutions is sometimes low,” Bagger said, “but I see it as my duty to demonstrate the effectiveness of the democratic process.”

Bagger, 40, also serves as Republican majority fiscal officer and co-chairman of the Joint Budget Oversight Committee. Additionally, during the 1994-96 and 1996-97 sessions, Bagger’s legislative colleagues elected him majority conference leader.

A lifelong resident of Westfield, Bagger graduated from Princeton’s Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs in 1982 and from Rutgers Law School, with honors, in 1986. He lives with his wife Barbara and their three daughters, Kate, 7, Jennifer and Meredith, both 3. — LAJ

Toni Crosby
New Hampshire representative
Communicator

As assistant minority whip in New Hampshire, Rep. Toni Crosby has learned to foster communication among the members of the Democratic Party as well as across the aisle with members of the majority party. “I work to foster communication between the parties to ensure that the focus of any debate remains on the issue,” Crosby said.

A member of the Commerce Committee, Crosby has played a crucial role in securing greater protections for consumers from managed-care abuses through her work on New Hampshire’s HMO Accountability Act. “My peers and I will be continuing to look for the balance between consumers and health maintenance organizations,” Crosby said.

In her third term in the New Hampshire House of Representatives, Crosby, a mother, also has been active in work on school accountability and efforts to find a resolution to school-funding re-

“Toll was the best confidence-instilling event in my career.”
— Illinois Rep. Tom Ryder, Class of 1987
Maureen Dakin
Vermont representative
Tested by fire

"I never thought I would actually run for office," said Vermont Rep. Maureen Dakin. After being appointed to fill a vacant seat in 1997, however, she decided to run to hold the seat for the Democratic Party. She was elected in 1998 and is seeking re-election this year.

As a legislator Dakin is a consensus builder, using her skills as a people person and working with a group of fellow legislative moderates. She enjoys the feeling of making a difference as a public official. Since Vermont has part-time legislators who do most of their own research, "You really feel as if you've accomplished something," Dakin said.

Outside the Legislature, Crosby, 42, works as co-manager of a law-school bookstore and has been active in community affairs. She has served on the boards of the New Hampshire Business Finance Authority, the Parent Teacher Organization of Conant Elementary School, and the New Hampshire chapter of the National Abortion Rights Action League.

Crosby also is co-chair of CSG's Eastern Regional Conference and is looking forward to helping her home state host the ERC Annual Meeting in 2001. New Hampshire Gov. Jeanne Shaheen said, "[Toni's] enthusiasm, organizational ability, and follow through will surely make it a memorable and successful meeting." — TM

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The biggest challenge of her legislative career was the civil-unions law, which this year granted to homosexual couples the same benefits as heterosexual couples. During the debate, legislators encountered the hate of neighbors and endured increased security at the Statehouse.

"I'm forever changed by the experience. I can't say yet if it's for the better or the worse," Dakin said. "I'm very proud of how I have conducted myself in the situation — how I arrived at my decision, how I responded to my constituents." She visited the people who sent her the worst hate mail and phone messages and discussed the issue and her position. "They were shocked to find me knocking on their door."

Dakin, 50, has served as the local chair of her political party for 20 years. In her spare time, Dakin volunteers at the local library in Colchester. She enjoys her work at the library because she loves books and believes the library serves "the need for a focal point in the town."

Dakin also enjoys spending time with her family and her husband, Robert. — CL

Daniel Da Ponte
Rhode Island senator
The state's youngest senator

Daniel Da Ponte is not living the life of an ordinary 22-year-old. At the age of 20, while still attending the University of Rhode Island, this son of Portuguese immigrants was sworn in as Rhode Island's youngest senator. After graduating this past May with a major in business management, he has turned his full attention to making life better for people in Rhode Island.

Da Ponte, a Democrat, ran on a consumer rights platform. He has sponsored bills that require banks to disclose service fees and is the vice chair of a commission studying the need to reform the cable-television industry in Rhode Island.

He believes that health care is the major issue facing Rhode Island in the future. "Last year, two major insurance companies pulled out of our state, and we have since been faced with new challenges as we try to provide affordable health care to everyone," he said.

Da Ponte is currently working on issues such as the growing gap between the rich and the poor and education financing. Da Ponte looks forward to a career in the Senate and potentially as a statewide elected official in the future. — SOL

John W. Fonfara
Connecticut senator
Improving education

In his 14 years as a legislator, Sen. John Fonfara has focused most of his legislative efforts on his district of Hartford, Conn., one of the poorest cities in America. In a career that has spanned 10 years as a member of the House and four years in the Senate, Fonfara, a Democrat, has had an impact. He initiated a $9 million loan program for commercial and residential loans for south Hartford to improve living conditions there.

In addition to his work for Hartford, Fonfara has served as the chairman of the Banks Committee and chairman of the Energy and Technology Committee, where he oversaw legislation that reformed Connecticut's telecommunications industry.

Fonfara also has worked to improve education in Connecticut. He has sponsored legislation to make preschool available to underprivileged children and is working to establish a dual language curriculum in English and Spanish for the
state. He believes that improving the education system and the quality of life are the two biggest issues facing Connecticut.

Outside of his role in the state Senate, Fonfara works as a consultant for an outdoor advertising firm. — SOL

Robert Kieffer
Member national assembly, Québec, Canada
Policy expert

Robert Kieffer taught political science for 22 years before he was elected as a member of the Québec Parliament for Groulx in 1994 and was re-elected in 1996. Before that, he served as secretary and then president of the Parti Québécois executive committee for Groulx in 1994. Kieffer instructed others in policy-making at Lionel Groulx College, but now he makes policy.

Among his other responsibilities, Kieffer, 54, is parliamentary assistant to Québec’s deputy prime minister and minister of state for the economy and finance. He is active in the Eastern Regional Conference of The Council of State Governments and served as deputy chair of the Québec section of CSQ. Kieffer said that state and provincial representatives are closer to people than federal representatives and believes that they deserve more funds to solve the concerns of the people.

Kieffer earned a master’s degree in political science, international relations, from the University of Québec in 1972. During his 20s and 30s he did a lot of union work and developed a keen interest in helping people gain the fundamental means to survive in society. The part he loves most about his job is that he serves people.

In his leisure time, Kieffer is fond of music, jogging and traveling around the world. He also enjoys gardening and cooking. — LX

Glenda Hamm Lake
Court administrator, Territorial Court of the Virgin Islands
Courting change

One of a manager’s toughest responsibilities is asking seasoned employees to change the way they do their job. The task is especially hard if the manager is half the employee’s age. Glenda Hamm Lake, 28, faces this challenge as the court administrator of the Territorial Court of the Virgin Islands.

“You don’t want to dismiss their experience, but, at the same time, you need to move forward and adopt new practices,” Lake said. Since becoming court administrator last November, she has initiated many changes, including automating court operations.

Lake appreciates the opportunity her job provides to affect lives both inside and outside the court system. Of the 270 employees she supervises, Lake said, “Their well-being has to be at the forefront when I make daily decisions.”

Lake says that her time in the judicial branch has given her a good perspective on the community’s needs. She eventually plans to seek public office as a legislator so she can pass laws geared toward improving the islands’ economy. “I’m compelled to pursue initiatives to turn around the territory’s financial situation,” Lake said.

She enjoys spending time with her husband, George Michael. Lake, a voracious reader, also volunteers as a mentor to students at the high school and university she attended. She received her bachelor’s degree in social science from the University of the Virgin Islands and her law degree from Emory University. — CL

Richard T. Moore
Massachusetts senator
Inspired to serve

When Dick Moore was in high school in the 1960s, he actively participated in student government and debates. The 1960 presidential campaign, won by home state Democratic nominee John F. Kennedy, truly sparked this Democratic state senator’s interest in politics.

Moore’s political career began in 1969 when he was elected selectman in his hometown of Hopedale, Mass., a post he held eight years. In 1977, he won election as state representative. After 17 years in the House, in 1996 he won the Senate seat that he holds today. Among his many committee appointments, he serves as Senate chairman of the Joint Committee on Health Care.

Moore, 56, said his true passion inside and outside of his legislative duties lies in a commitment to the environment. Moore was instrumental in the creation and implementation of a commission that preserves and protects the Blackstone River that stretches from Worcester, Mass., to Providence, R.I. The Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor Commission provides assistance to protect historic resources and the environment in the two states. Moore helped defeat a proposed landfill, which cleared the way for the establishment of a new state park in the area.

Moore said one of the toughest challenges today is to improve civics education in schools so students understand the importance of having power flow from the federal government to the state level. “People need to understand more about democracy, the importance of the political process and the need to know more how local and state government levels have the most direct impact on citizens,” Moore said.——Henry Toll

"We should strive to utilize all of the nation’s experience and all of the knowledge and judgment of our experts in the field of government."

—Henry Toll
As he was inspired by Kennedy's entrance into politics, Moore also sees the need to help more young people identify with our country's governmental system. – AS

Carol Murphy
New Jersey assemblywoman
Consensus builder

New Jersey Assemblywoman Carol Murphy began her successful political career as a local township committee person in 1980. Since entering the Assembly in 1993, she has taken on several leadership duties and enjoys the challenges associated with advancing the state's technological capabilities.

As chair of the Assembly Telecommunications and Utilities Committee, the Republican legislator is leading the charge for New Jersey to become a leader in innovative technology. In this role, she will address various issues, including those related to cable and public television, the Internet, telecommunications and energy utilities.

Murphy values her consensus-building skills as an asset to pursuing policy initiatives. For instance, she facilitated collaboration among various parties to help create the state's electricity restructuring legislation. New Jersey Sen. Robert Martin describes Murphy as "a fair leader, a person who can examine an issue and accept the challenge of bringing the involved parties to the table to reach a viable solution."

Murphy feels strongly that planning for an increase in the number of elderly residents is a top priority and is heavily involved with elderly care issues. She chaired the New Jersey Advisory Council on Elder Care and hopes to help oversee the creation and implementation of long-term care insurance programs in the state.

Murphy and her husband, Leonard, have three grown children and two grandchildren. They have lived in Morris County, N.J., for more than 30 years. – MLM

Linda Reneé Baker
Secretary, Illinois Department of Human Services
Excellence in service

With her appointment as secretary of the Illinois Department of Human Services earlier this year, Linda Reneé Baker became the first female to head the state's largest agency with 20,000 employees and an annual budget of $4.5 billion. The agency delivers services aimed at assisting individuals and families to become self-sufficient. The agency takes a one-stop, coordinated intake approach to enable people to seek solutions to their needs.

In her 15-year career in Illinois government, Baker, 36, has proven to be an effective public administrator with extensive experience in human services, legislative affairs, and business and job development.

Issues that challenge Baker the most include service delivery to the mentally ill, education and training for individuals who are making the transition from welfare to work, and ways to encourage more involvement from the private sector in providing child care.

"We need business, labor, educators, community providers and parents to engage in collaborative problem solving. I anticipate guiding and facilitating that process," she said.

Baker has received numerous civic awards and citations for excellence in government service and for her volunteer effort on behalf of underprivileged youth. In her spare time, she serves on several community boards. — CH

Susan Crosby
Indiana representative
Mental health advocate

During her 10 years in the Indiana Legislature, Rep. Susan Crosby has been an outspoken advocate for health care reform. It reflects her intense desire to improve the quality of people's lives that originally motivated her to seek public office. While serving as executive director of Indiana's Associated Patient Services in the 1980s, Crosby experienced first-hand the impact of public-policy initiatives on the delivery of health services.

Crosby has been recognized for her efforts over the past decade to give all residents of Indiana access to treatment for mental illness. The Mental Health Association of Indiana, Inc. has awarded her its Legislator of the Year Award six times. She also has been recognized as the Legislator of the Year by the National
Mental Health Association and the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill. To many, Crosby has become known as the mental health legislator in the Statehouse in Indianapolis and nationally. In addition, Crosby played a leadership role in the creation of the Office of Women’s Health and the adoption of patient-protection legislation.

Crosby, a Democrat, rose to her current position as deputy speaker pro tem after displaying her leadership capabilities as the assistant minority whip and the president of the women’s caucus. She also serves as vice chair of the House Rules and Legislative Procedures Committee and as a member of three other committees: Commerce and Economic Development, Elections and Appointment and Public Health.

Crosby, 54, and her husband Joe, a fourth-generation family farmer, own and operate a grain farm in Putnam County. During her free time, Crosby enjoys a variety of outdoor activities including hiking, bicycling and playing golf. — CM

**Gregory B. Gardner**

Kansas adjutant general and director of emergency management

**Dual roles**

Serving is used as the common denominator when Major General Gregory B. Gardner describes his greatest personal and professional satisfaction. His most recent mission is to serve two roles, as both Kansas Gov. Bill Graves’ adjutant general and the director of the Kansas Division of Emergency Management. These positions allow him to serve both state and nation, through his leadership of 8,500 citizen soldiers and airmen in the National Guard and state employees.

Gardner’s management skills have proven effective in improving state government. To improve state response time to emergencies, he created a Scout program, in which National Guard members act as communication links with local communities and assess damage early in a disaster. Such innovation in management comes from more than 20 years of military experience with the Air National Guard. The 46-year-old general sees the improvement of National Guard facilities as his most important mission. “What confident, professional image do dilapidated buildings engender?” Gardner asked. He wants to lead a legislative effort to fix the National Guard armories that have received little attention since their original construction in the 1950s. While his spare time is limited, he participates in several community organizations and activities including the Salvation Army and the Special Olympics. Also, he has participated as a runner for Race Against Hunger, as well as helped start math and science programs for “at-risk” youth. - CH

**Suzanne Jeskewitz**

Wisconsin representative

**Seasoned policy-maker**

Even before her first term as a state legislator, Suzanne Jeskewitz had served on enough local boards in her home of Menomonee Falls, Wis., to be considered a seasoned policy-maker. Jeskewitz began her life in politics early, serving on student councils as a child and then expanding her community involvement as an adult. The 58-year-old Republican is a former member of both the Waukesha County Board and the Menomonee Falls Planning Commission. Her government service has been complemented by work for various civic organizations, including the local YMCA board of managers, the local Chamber of Commerce and the Menomonee Falls PTA Council.

Jeskewitz has received numerous awards for her community activism, and she also picked up a political philosophy that she brought to Madison as a state legislator.

“I really believe in local control of government,” she said. “The closer you get to the people, the more you should know what’s going on and what needs to be done.” The former schoolteacher has become a leader in several policy areas since she was first elected to the Wisconsin Assembly in 1996. She has been a leader in overseeing the state’s Wisconsin Works (W-2) program and also serves as chair of the Financial Institutions Committee.

As much as she likes public service, though, Jeskewitz most enjoys spending time with her family. She and her husband, Jim, have a son, a daughter and a 2-year-old grandson. — TA

**Kim Koppelman**

North Dakota representative

**Community leader**

A commitment to community service and a strong sense of history led North Dakota Rep. Kim Koppelman to the state Capitol. Koppelman spent four years as a city council member in River side, N.D., a small town of about 500, until city leaders agreed to merge River side with West Fargo. Having long been active in numerous community groups, as well as church and school activities, he quickly assimilated himself into his new community structure. And in 1994, the voters of his West Fargo district elected him to the Legislature.

Since then, the 47-year-old Republican has established himself as a competent leader and colleagues describe him as tenacious and ef-
Christopher M. “Monty” Lobb
Ohio assistant secretary of state and chief of staff
Living his dreams

Since childhood, Monty Lobb has dreamed of winning election to the U.S. Congress. So, when he was offered the opportunity as a college student to clerk for Ohio U.S. Rep. Bill Gradison in Washington, D.C., he jumped on it. Lobb graduated with a law degree from the University of Dayton School of Law in 1988.

After spending several years in the nation’s capital, Lobb knew he belonged in state government and went to work for Ohio Treasurer Kenneth Blackwell in Columbus.

Lobb describes his first post as manager of research, projects and constituent services as the beginning of a beautiful work relationship. The post’s many responsibilities included overseeing a disaster recovery plan for the treasury and electronic fund transfers for child-support payments. Later, he was promoted to deputy general counsel. When Republican Blackwell was elected Ohio secretary of state in 1999, Lobb took his present position as Blackwell’s assistant secretary of state and chief of staff.

Lobb enjoys most of all the opportunity to help people. He also finds it satisfying to work with other state agencies to solve problems.

“It has been my aspiration for more than 15 years to eventually become a state representative or senator in Ohio,” Lobb said. “Although this still remains a real possibility, my work with Ken Blackwell in Ohio’s Treasury and Secretary of State offices has informed my opinion that in an executive role, I might be able to have an even broader influence.”

Lobb, 38, has put some of those dreams on hold because he is making new ones. He loves what he is doing and continues striving for excellence. He enjoys music, reading and sports. — AS

Lisa Madigan
Illinois senator
Legislative legacy

Lisa Madigan didn’t see many combines as a child growing up in Chicago, but after she was elected to the Illinois Senate, the Democrat figured it was time to learn more about the life of a downstate farmer.

She turned to a Republican colleague for assistance. Madigan hopped on Senate Assistant Majority Leader John Maitland Jr.’s combine and farmed with him for a day.

“It was a great experience for me,” Madigan said. “The reality is that we represent the whole state. It’s important to understand the needs of all our constituents. Somebody who comes from a different area or a different district likely grew up with a different set of ideas.”

While she is a relatively new legislator, Madigan has had plenty of experiences with the Illinois General Assembly. Her father, Michael, is Illinois speaker of the House and has been a state representative since 1971.

“From the age of 10 until I was 17, they were in session until the end of June,” she said. “So I would get out of school and spend a month in Springfield.”

Madigan serves as Democratic spokesperson for the Senate Education Committee and is a member of the Appropriations Committee. As co-chair of the Conference of Women Legislators, she led that bipartisan group’s successful efforts to pass a state earned income tax credit during the 2000 session.

An attorney, Madigan has a long track record of community service, from her leadership role in several Chicago civic organizations to her stint as a volunteer high-school teacher in South Africa. — TA

Thomas G. McCarthy
Minnesota district judge
Not a techie

Thomas G. McCarthy has made quite a mark since he was appointed to the bench in Minnesota’s First Judicial District in 1988. Kathleen A. Blatz, chief justice of the Supreme
Court of Minnesota, describes McCarthy as “one of the judiciary’s most innovative and effective leaders.”

McCarthy spearheaded efforts in his district that now serve as models for the entire state, including the introduction of technology to link county courthouses to the state court system. His interest in the use of technology began because he said, “I can’t read my own writing.”

Although he says that he is not a techie, he now directs Minnesota’s $30-million effort to replace its court system’s computers, and he plays an instrumental role in supporting the state’s $100-million criminal justice information-integration project.

McCarthy’s activeness extends beyond the courts. In 1993, he shared his daughter and son-in-law’s honeymoon bicycle tour by riding a bike with them 427 miles across Iowa, a journey he plans to repeat in 2010. He loves to read and spend time with “the world’s two most perfect grandsons.” His greatest satisfaction comes, he said, from “having a positive impact on the lives of real people.” He describes himself as a “collaborative leader.”

McCarthy, 50, and his wife, Patty, have three children. They live in Winthrop, Minn. — BH

Nancy P. Thompson
Nebraska senator
From teaching to doing

When Nancy Thompson’s parents took her to hear the candidates speak during the 1960 presidential campaign, little did they know they were setting the stage for their daughter’s future political career. Inspired by what she heard, Thompson became politically active in high school and remained so after college when she became a teacher. Eventually Thompson left academia to work as a congressional staffer. After stints as a county commissioner and the deputy chief of staff for former Nebraska Gov. Ben Nelson, she was appointed to fill an open seat in the unicameral Legislature.

Having been elected a senator in 1998, Thompson draws upon her past work experiences in her present role as a lawmaker. She’s identified the best sources of information and feels her background helps her to ask the right questions. This is important to a policy-maker who points to being organized and detail-oriented as key to her legislative successes. Thompson says her greatest fulfillment comes from involving stakeholders in the process of resolving tough problems.

In the Legislature, she has focused much of her attention on juvenile justice, chairing a state task force that studied the topic. She also has been concerned with the challenges of teacher recruitment and retention. “It’s nice to have a really easy issue, but I don’t mind taking on the thorny ones,” Thompson said. When she seeks some down time, she likes to entertain, read and play golf. The mother to four children in their 20s, Thompson, 52, recently celebrated her 30th wedding anniversary with husband, Jim. — JMK

Shari Weber
Kansas representative
Delivering leadership

Rep. Shari Weber is certainly not afraid to jump in and help out when problems arise. Even before she won public office, Weber participated in public service in every community in which she’s lived.

While living in a small community in Minnesota, she and her husband became emergency medical technicians and went door-to-door to solicit donations to purchase an ambulance when they learned that the closest ambulance was 25 miles away. Later, when her family relocated to Kansas, she organized a Christmas tour of homes in her community to benefit disadvantaged children. She also served as the downtown development director in her hometown of Herington, Kan. “More than anything,” she said, “that [position] renewed my faith that government should be efficient and effective.”

Elected in 1994, she is currently serving her third two-year term in the Kansas House of Representatives. During the 1999-2000 legislative session, her Republican colleagues elected her to the position of assistant majority leader and the strong leadership skills that she has exhibited in her community are evident in her work. Speaker Robin Jennison said, “People look to [Rep. Weber] for leadership and she delivers.”

Weber, 47, and her husband, Marvin, have been married for 28 years and are parents of three grown children, J.D., Josh and Joy. Together, they own a tire business, where Weber can be found when not busy with legislative work. — AM

“A legislature cannot enact thoroughly scientific or satisfactory measures unless it has available accurate information concerning both the problems to be met and the best technique for meeting them.”

— Henry Toll
Anthony G. Brown
Maryland delegate
Multitalented

A Harvard-educated lawyer, state legislator and helicopter Army pilot are all ways to describe Anthony G. Brown. Originally from New York, he moved to Maryland in 1992 after graduating from Harvard. While he quickly got involved in community activities, it wasn’t until 1994 that he became involved in state politics by running state Sen. Ulysses Currie’s political campaign. Then in 1998, Brown was elected to the House. From 1994 to 1999, he also was an associate attorney for a Washington, D.C., law firm, but now devotes more time to his legislative duties.

The freshman Democrat has made a big impression on House leaders in a short time. Speaker Casper R. Taylor Jr. said of him, “Anthony is destined to be among the next generation of leaders in Maryland. He is a spirited legislator who has demonstrated his willingness to champion issues based on his understanding of what is right, rather than on what is perceived to be popular.”

Brown successfully sponsored a bill that improves Maryland’s Empowerment Zone Program. He also helped shape two important bills regarding health-insurance coverage. His long list of accomplishments includes his attainment of the rank of major as judge advocate in the U.S. Army Reserves and captain as an aviation officer. Brown thinks that there is no room for failure when a problem is approached in the right way. Professionally, he is proud of a new direction the Prince George’s Community College undertook while he served as chairman of its Board of Trustees.

Brown, 38, relaxes with home landscaping projects with his wife. He also spends as much time as possible with his five-year-old daughter, because he says, “Taking her to the zoo or museums allows me to relive my own childhood.” — MNM

Marsha Campbell
Missouri representative
Vast experience

Having worked in state and local government in a variety ways, Rep. Marsha Campbell brings vast experience to the table. Campbell’s experience includes campaign managing, local government administration and lobbying.

A major accomplishment for Campbell, 54, was shifting gears and running for elected office so far along into her professional career. She definitely has the ability to successfully transition into new roles.

For Campbell, working in the Legislature in Missouri is about the opportunity and challenge of creating the most efficient term-limited government for her constituents. She is helping to iron out the best process for the benefit of individuals. “When you look at what goes on at the political level, community is the overriding factor for us,” Campbell said. In her view, it is all about the people. Campbell’s hobbies include golf and reading. — JC

Harold Lloyd Criswell
Arkansas chief deputy treasurer
Making things happen

“Do better today what I did the day before,” is what Harold Lloyd Criswell says is his driving force. The Arkansas chief deputy treasurer is not satisfied if he is not continually striving for improvement.

Criswell credits his college professor of public administration and his mentor, Charles Dunn, with sparking his interest in politics and providing him with direction. Dunn’s course made Criswell realize that, behind all of the wonderful things we see, do and enjoy, there are a large number of people behind the scenes making it happen.

As an active public servant in Arkansas, Criswell is proud to have designed and implemented the Treasury Accounting and Investment System. This replaced the previous antiquated system, which was operated off the state’s older mainframe computer. The new system allows state agencies to obtain real-time information on funding, crucial to their operations.

Criswell said that, in the future,
he may pursue a different role on the state or possibly the national level. — MB

Mary Ann Eckles

Tennessee representative

Helping the helpless

Rep. Mary Ann Eckles has tackled such complex state issues as restructuring the state's health care, welfare and tax systems. In legislative debates, she comes down squarely on the side of children, the elderly and disabled who have little or no voice in the political process. Eckles says that experience as a teacher, a realtor, the wife of a physician and the mother of two sons has taught her how to "be the oil in the process" of bringing factions together. Elected to the Tennessee House in 1994, Eckles, a Democrat, served on a subcommittee charged with overhauling the state's welfare system. She helped create Families First, a program to assist single mothers as they move out of the welfare system.

During her second term, Eckles chaired the Mental Health Subcommittee. During a 15-month process involving more than 300 people, the subcommittee rewrote the state's mental health and mental retardation laws to establish care for the disabled in their communities, giving families more input. Gov. Don Sundquist, who first opposed her appointment to the subcommittee, declared by the end of the process, "In a fight I want Mary Ann Eckles on my side."

Eckles' toughest position was on last session's Finance Ways and Means Committee. The committee considered restructuring the state's tax structure, which is dependent on sales-tax revenue. The Legislature could not agree on a restructuring plan and adjourned with no action. Eckles notes that Tennessee's bond rating immediately fell from AAA to AA.

What's on the horizon? Re-election, in which Eckles thinks tax restructuring may haunt her. Next session, she would like to tackle the taming of the Medicaid waiver, which is part of the TennCare system that insures 500,000 people who are uninsurable due to pre-existing conditions.

On the personal front, Eckles wants to spend more time with her mother. She also wants to travel with her sons. — KM

Lisa Gladden

Maryland delegate

Public advocate

Although Delegate Lisa Gladden never aspired to the Legislature, she agreed to run for office as a favor to her local political club in Baltimore, Md. She credits the hard work by a few supporters with helping her win her first election in 1998.

Gladden, an assistant public defender since 1993, has served the public in the judicial system for most of her professional career, and sees the Legislature as an opportunity to help people. "I like doing things for people and getting things done," Gladden said.

She relishes being able to help individual constituents. "[People] need somebody to hold their hand, direct them in the right direction and sometimes supply the muscle needed to get things done, and I'm glad to help," Gladden said.

Her experience in the Legislature has taught Gladden to "live life to the fullest" and understand that "you can't always move mountains or change the world in a single term."

A little patience and a lot of hard work go a long way for Gladden, a Democrat. She worked to develop and support model legislation to combat racial profiling that failed to pass during this year's session, but she is optimistic about the bill's chances next year.

Gladden, 35, is an avid bowler and enjoys spending leisure time with her mother and her dog. — JC

James Kenneth Guin Jr.

Alabama representative

Inspired by Weekly Reader

When he was in first grade, Rep. Ken Guin became aware of the 1968 presidential campaign. The pictures of Richard Nixon, Hubert Humphrey and George Wallace on the cover of the Weekly Reader sparked Guin's interest in politics. Guin said, "I liked Hubert Humphrey's smile and I've been a Democrat ever since!"

After graduating in 1987 from Cumberland School of Law, Samford University, Birmingham, Guin practiced law in Birmingham, but returned to his hometown of Carbon Hill, Ala. in 1991. Following his longtime interest in politics, Guin successfully ran for the Legislature in 1994.

In office, Guin has most enjoyed organizing and establishing the role of the Democratic caucus as a leadership tool for the implementation of policy changes. Guin drafted successful legislation to assist Alabama's working and single-parent families in obtaining quality, affordable child care.

Guin sees his toughest challenge as chairing the Constitution and Elections Committee, which is charged with rewriting Alabama's Constitution over the next several years. Many have tried and failed to update the state Constitution in previous attempts over the last 25 years.

Guin, majority leader, plans to remain as long as he can be effective,

“In many respects the conduct of every intelligent citizen is based upon the ideas which he acquires from his neighbors.”
—Henry Toll
although he would like to run for a statewide constitutional office some day.

Guin, 38, and his wife, Tanya, have two young children. — MB

Linda McGee
North Carolina judge
Small-town roots

As Judge Linda McGee has moved up the legal ladder, she has kept her small-town roots. A few times every week, she drives the 175 miles from her home in Hickory, N.C., to the North Carolina Court of Appeals in Raleigh.

McGee first practiced in a private law firm in Boone, N.C., for 17 years. Then, in 1995, she was appointed to the Court of Appeals by Gov. Jim Hunt and was elected for an eight-year term in the following year. McGee hopes to be re-elected in 2004, but her aspirations don’t end there. She feels it would be an honor to become a chief judge or serve on the state’s Supreme Court.

As a state official, McGee sees her most challenging issue as guiding the future of the court system. To maintain the legal system as a positive force in the country, she sees mediation as a promising alternative to resolving disputes. McGee also feels strongly that courts should be available to everyone, including low-income persons. In 1992, she received the North Carolina Bar Association’s Pro Bono Award for providing legal services to the poor. The award recognized her establishment of the Blue Ridge Dispute Settlement Center and a local shelter home for abused people and their children.

McGee also yearns to improve the public’s understanding of the U.S. justice system, beginning with the country’s youth. She is involved in multiple education efforts, including “Lawyers in the Schools,” a North Carolina Bar Association program that places lawyers in public schools to teach about the legal system.

McGee takes time out of her busy schedule to enjoy traveling, camping and hiking with her husband, Gary, and their two sons, Scott and Jeffrey. — MLM

Steve Robinson
Texas youth commission executive director
Rancher

Steve Robinson, executive director of the Texas Youth Commission, credits juvenile justice professionals who have mentored him through the years for helping him along the way. He began at the commission in 1975 as an entry-level hearing examiner, taking on various capacities until the mid-1980s. After leaving the commission for a few years, he returned in 1993 as the executive director.

Since then, he has led a reorganization of the agency. He is most proud of helping to “take a very good, very effective and efficient agency, and make a transformation into what the public demanded and what the Legislature directed, which is to be a more corrections-oriented agency.”

Robinson said that he has fallen short of his own expectations at times. In these situations, however, he has learned that “it’s not always going to happen the way you want it to, and perseverance pays off.”

Robinson said what motivates him is seeing other people develop. “I enjoy seeing people, staff and youth, be successful,” Robinson said.

Robinson, 48, is a rancher who works with cattle and horses in his spare time. — JC

John R. Unger II
West Virginia senator
Rhodes scholar

Freshman Sen. John R. Unger II took to heart some words that he received from Mother Teresa in Calcutta years ago. She told the young volunteer, “John, God doesn’t call us to do great things. He calls us to do small things with great love.”

Unger spent much of his college days doing volunteer work, which included working with Mother Teresa in Calcutta, a stint as a missionary in Hong Kong and helping Kurdish refugees in Northern Iraq following the Gulf War. In the states, he found time for helping disabled youth, the unemployed, hurricane relief in Florida and the homeless, among many other causes.

Unger won both Truman and Rhodes scholarships, in addition to being named to USA Today’s All-USA College First Academic Team in 1992. He graduated from West Virginia University with a bachelor’s degree in liberal arts.

His political career began when his grandfather promised him his first campaign contribution to run for the state Senate in 1998. The encouragement and help of friends, supporters and elected officials propelled the Democrat into the Senate at the young age of 29 after defeating the incumbent candidate.

“Unger sees health and adult literacy as two important issues for his state so that all its residents can participate in society to their fullest ability. Continued economic development and the creation of better jobs in the state also are goals that he hopes to achieve through his work as an economic development consultant in the Martinsburg, W.V., area today.”

Unger, 31, hopes to remain a senator for many years to come and would like to serve one day as chairman of finance or education. — MT
Susan Westrom
Kentucky representative
Effective legislator

Rep. Susan Westrom was inspired to enter public life by her personal difficulty in collecting child support across national borders. Although she was unsuccessful in getting support for her two children, Westrom learned so much that she decided to help others navigate the system. She began working with community groups, the courts and human service agencies to help other families recover child support and access needed services.

In 1994, while working on her master’s degree in Social Work at the University of Kentucky, Westrom began working as a registered lobbyist on children’s issues. From there, her involvement in politics was a natural progression. In November 1998, three years after finishing her graduate degree, Westrom, a Democrat, was elected to represent a formerly Republican district in Lexington, Ky.

Using her knowledge and skills gained working as a lobbyist, Westrom proved effective as a freshman legislator, getting 10 bills passed this year. Westrom co-chaired the House subcommittee on seniors, organized a Task Force on Seniors in the Workplace and successfully sponsored a bill requiring certification of assisted-living facilities. Westrom also was active on issues such as prescription drugs for seniors, early childhood development and juvenile justice. When the Legislature is not in session, Westrom stays in tune with issues affecting children and families in her position as director of advocacy and marketing with Buckhorn Children’s Home.

Having been a single mother and a nontraditional college student (she began college at the age of 35), Westrom knows what it is like to have to feed a family on a limited income, to take a child to day care and to shop for groceries after working a long day. “As a woman, I wanted to make sure that my state government was truly a representative government, that someone like me was there who knew about these realities,” Westrom said. — TM

A claim of states’ rights must now be justified by a demonstration of states’ competence.”
—Henry Toll

Pamela L. Abernethy
Oregon circuit court judge
Avid actress

Pamela L. Abernethy, a circuit court judge in Salem, Ore., has spent her entire legal career in the service of state government, first as an attorney and now as a judge. She was first appointed to the bench as a district court judge in 1993 and to the Circuit Court in 1995.

Abernethy chairs the committee on the Future of the Courts in Oregon. In that role, she has been instrumental in fostering better public understanding of the important work of Oregon’s judicial branch. Reflecting her keen interest in judicial education, she has helped develop and implement a career-long curriculum for judges. Abernethy is a strong proponent of improving the interaction among the three branches of government and in using collaborative methods, including mediation to address community challenges.

“Litigation can destroy relationships completely. Mediation can not only solve the problem, but promotes the underlying relationship,” she said.

Abernethy, 48, lives in Salem, Ore., with her partner, Chris Fletcher, and their two terriers. — BH

Ethan Berkowitz
Alaska representative
Northern exposure

Alaska House Minority Leader Ethan Berkowitz seems to have an affinity for cold climates. A San Francisco native, he graduated from Harvard University in 1983 with honors in government and economics. After graduation, he had several stints as an Antarctic enforcement officer, ensuring that scientists and tourists followed treaties and rules that protect the fragile environment there.

Upon receiving his law degree from Hastings College of Law back home in San Francisco, Berkowitz moved to Anchorage in 1990 and began practicing law.

“Living in Alaska is unique all by itself,” the 38-year-old Democrat said. “There is just so much geographic and cultural diversity.”

In 1997, he attended a political
“The Toll Program gave me a way to approach people and solve problems that I use absolutely everyday in the Legislature.” — Nebraska Speaker Doug Kristensen, Class of 1991

Kim J. Bouck
Chief of staff for Utah lieutenant governor

Dream job

“Necessity has been a catalyst for Kim J. Bouck throughout her career. Her philosophy is best described by words attributed to St. Francis of Assisi — “Start by doing what’s necessary; then do what’s possible; and suddenly you are doing the impossible.””

While at Logan High School, Bouck learned about state government during a visit to the office of Sen. Lyle Hillyard at the Statehouse in Salt Lake City. After graduating from Utah State University, in 1996 she worked as his legislative assistant. In 1997, Bouck employed her legislative experience by working as a professional lobbyist for such agencies as the American Cancer Society and the Utah Health Insurance Association. She decided, however, that she preferred to be in the “inner” rather than the “outer” legislative circle and in 1998 became chief of staff for Utah Lt. Gov. Olene Walker. She calls it a dream job because of the interaction with a diverse group of people, multiple tasks and fascinating issues.

Bouck believes that the greatest contribution public officials can make is to improve upon the work of their predecessors. “Instead of re-inventing the wheel, I rather prefer to incorporate the knowledge and experience of my colleagues while continually adding technology, new resources and fresh ideas,” she said.

Never having held an elected position, she may consider running for office in the future.

She relaxes by playing the piano — a wedding present from her husband, Daryl. — MNM

Jim Buck
Washington representative

Does his homework

Size seems to define the nature of the Washington House’s 24th district’s struggle with natural resources issues. Twice the size of Delaware, the district is a focal point for spotted-owl and salmon-recovery efforts. The state also has 13 Indian tribes that are covered by seven different treaties. This puts state officials in the position of trying to retain the rights of both the state and its property owners and deal with the plethora of Congress over the Endangered Species Act and tribal lands. As co-chair of the House Natural Resources Committee, Rep. Jim Buck plays a central part in these issues. A resident of Joyce on the Olympic Peninsula, Buck also represents the critical 24th district.

A three-term legislator, Buck does not delegate such difficult issues to staff for research and bill writing. “With good intentions comes the responsibility to acquire a sufficient knowledge-base to make good decisions,” he said. “I try to do my own homework, which includes spending a great deal of time studying state law.”

Buck crafted a plan to restore salmon that was unanimously adopted by the Legislature as the 1998 Salmon Recovery Act. A civil engineer by trade, he designed the plan in the mode of a well-run construction project. The strategy spreads the recovery over a 30-year period that will, hopefully avoid some of the contentiousness the district experienced with the spotted-owl controversy.

Buck plans to run for re-election and, if successful, will continue to fine-tune the salmon-recovery plan and address tribal issues.

A 1971 graduate of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, Buck lives with his wife, Donna. They have two daughters, Wendy and Betsy. — KM

Colleen Hanabusa
Hawaii senator

Problem solver

Since her election in 1998, Hawaii Sen. Colleen Hanabusa has offered effective leadership and representation for her constituents in the Waianae district from where she was raised and lives.

Senate Minority Leader Whitney Anderson, a 20-year veteran, said of the freshman Democrat, “She’s got a quality about her — that she knows what she wants to accomplish and that she can lead.”

Hanabusa, who received her J.D. degree in 1977 from the William S. Richardson School of Law, Honolulu, focuses on labor law in a group practice. An inherent flair for solving problems shows up in her relaxation time, during which she enjoys...
doing mind-teaser puzzles and reading murder mysteries.

Hanabusa, 49, grew up being assertive and creative — traits from the time she used to play samurai with the local boys, to the present as she, among other things, chairs the Water, Land and Hawaiian Affairs Committee. As lobbyist Linda Rosehill notes, “She’s not going to sit back, watch and follow.” — DP

Mark Hillman
Colorado senator
A true Mark balancing act

Ask Mark Hillman about the greatest challenge he faces and he’ll say it’s not on the floor of the Colorado Senate, nor in the wheat fields of his Burlington, Colo., farm, but balancing the time spent on the two. Hillman became interested in politics in childhood when he helped his father campaign for county commissioner. The “bug” of politics stuck and Hillman, a Republican, continued to be involved in politics and campaigns at the local, state and federal levels until his bid for the state Senate in 1998.

Hillman strays from the traditional “brand-name” politics, as typified by his election to the Senate. As a “nobody,” few thought he had a chance. Although he was outspent 2-to-1 and not endorsed by major names, Hillman won by a slim margin of 66 votes. “None of my opponents ever considered that they might lose. What they didn’t count on was one’s willingness to work hard and the willingness of voters to work for and elect a candidate who represented their beliefs.”

As a legislator, Hillman is greatly concerned about education in Colorado. He said, “The circumstances in small rural schools may be quite different than those in urban districts. It is vital that reforms be implemented in a manner that meets the demands of rural and urban students.”

Hillman, 32, is pragmatic about the future and plans to stay involved in state government past Colorado’s strict term limits. “If the right opportunity comes along, I would certainly be interested in pursuing it. However, I could also be quite satisfied by nonelected opportunities to influence government. The opportunity to affect public policy and genuinely make a difference is a tremendous motivator.” — JM

John Jay Lee
Nevada assemblyman
Red tape cutter

In his second term in the Nevada Assembly, John Jay Lee brings years of volunteer and business experience to the job. Lee, 45, has served on county and city committees and advisory boards. He participates on local planning, traffic and business committees. Born in Middlesex, England, Lee is a plumbing contractor and tile and marble contractor.

The part about lawmaking that Lee loves most is “the satisfaction of feeling I’ve been of help in dealing with quality of life issues, in assisting constituents with frustrating problems of red tape.” He also believes “addressing potential issues before they become large problems is key. Prevention is better than cure.”

Lee plans to gain more knowledge, experience and leadership within the Democratic caucus and Legislature. Lee has served on the Government Affairs; Infrastructure, Nuclear Waste Transportation, Taxation; and Natural Resources committees.

Lee and his wife, Marilyn, of 26 years have seven children and two grandchildren. He enjoys reading, mountain biking, outdoor recreation and spending time with his family. — DJP

Joseph Stegner
Idaho senator
Involved is key

Joseph Stegner long has been active and interested in public affairs. Whether discussing them at the family dinner table while growing up in Lewistown, Idaho, or making state policy on the floor of the Idaho Senate in Boise, Stegner has found public affairs to be stimulating, fun, challenging and, at times, frustrating.

“It’s a lot of work, serving the public interest,” Stegner said, “but my service in the Senate has been a wonderful experience.”

Having succeeded in the private sector as an agri-businessman who owned and operated a grain and seed company, Stegner ran for the state Senate in 1998. “The public sector is a better use of my time. It’s one thing to discuss public policy, it’s quite another to jump in and make a difference. People that are involved have the say.”

Stegner said his wife, Deborah, and four adult children also had to adjust to his participation in public life. “My family, while supportive of my public role, still see it as kind of strange. It takes a little getting used to on all fronts.”

Stegner enjoys making music with several local community bands in Lewistown. “We may not be very good,” said trumpeter Stegner, “but we have a great time sounding bad!” — JM

Emily Swanson
Montana representative
Adventure lover

Rep. Emily Swanson developed her interest in politics while growing up in Bozeman, where her mother was in politics.

She was elected to the Montana House of Representatives in 1992.

“The first essential of good government is to have honest, capable officials and employees.”
— Henry Toll
Before that she exhibited her leadership skills as president of the local Business and Professional Women’s Club chapter of Bozeman.

She became House Democratic minority leader in 1999. As a legislator representing Bozeman, she is interested in tax policies, especially involving property taxes. Diversity of opinion is what she loves most about her legislative job. Of politics she said, “We are all in the same boat.”

Swanson’s hobbies include horseback riding, golf, canoeing, hiking, motorcycling, hunting and snow skiing. Her philosophy is that life is a big adventure and one needs to be open-minded to all the adventures. A friend once invited her to join her campaign for governor and they rode on horseback all the way through Montana. Swanson, whose two children are grown, is enthusiastic and outgoing both in her career and in her life. — LX

Charlene Gonzales Zettel
California assemblywoman
Barrier breaker

In 1998, Assemblywoman Charlene Zettel was elected the first Republican Latina woman to serve in the state Assembly. In 1999, she was appointed as the Republican Caucus chair in the Assembly, a testimony to her diligence in solving policy issues and providing quality leadership.

Zettel sees the challenge for public officials as ensuring that all people have the opportunity to realize their full potential — through education, health care and public safety. She is playing a key role in meeting this challenge, having had five bills signed into law in 1999 and this year. Among the new laws are ones for before- and after-school care for young children and more protections for crime victims, especially the elderly and disabled.

She brings a wealth of experience in education, health care and business to the Assembly. Zettel served two terms on the Poway Unified School District Board of Education. She is a practicing dental hygienist of more than 20 years. In addition, for the past 20 years, she has owned and managed more than 300 rental units.

For the future, Zettel wants to further study water policy, transportation systems and business incentives to develop alternative fuel sources. — DP

“The Toll Fellowship experience reaffirmed my reasons for entering public service. If you really want to make a difference you can’t just put one toe in the water.

You must immerse your whole being.”

— Indiana Rep. Mike Murphy, Class of 1996

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States combat child poverty

BY CLARE NOLAN

Concerted anti-poverty efforts by some states have blended with an unprecedented economic tailwind to lead to the first marked improvements in the lives of poor children in two decades, a new state-by-state analysis of child poverty has found.

After skyrocketing in the 1980s, the percentage of children living below poverty fell in all but 15 states in the five years between 1993 and 1998, the National Center for Children in Poverty reports in a study released Aug. 10. The NCCP is an anti-poverty research group based at Columbia University.

While the 1990s have been good for the nation’s children, the NCCP study finds, the current economic boom has yet to allow poor families in most states to recover all the ground lost since 1979. The incidence of child poverty in the nation as a whole remains high. Nearly 19 percent of Americans under age 18 — just under one in five — is poor.

The NCCP study tracks changes in child poverty from 1979, when rates began a 15-year climb, to 1998, the latest year for which data are available. The findings expose stark contrasts among states that disparities in size and wealth cannot explain.

In particular, New Jersey, Illinois, Arkansas and South Dakota all managed to reduce child poverty in the 1980s even as the rates in other states were skyrocketing, said Julian Palmer, spokesperson for the NCCP.

“States can make a difference in this,” Palmer said. “It’s not just a question of states being dragged along by the national economy. There are real differences.”

New Jersey, for example, has seen its incidence of child poverty fall from 18.9 percent in 1979 to 12 percent in 1998. In contrast, New York’s rate climbed from 18.9 percent in 1979 to 24.2 percent in 1998. Only Arizona, West Virginia, New Mexico and Louisiana have higher child poverty rates than New York.

While Palmer says the economy alone does not explain the improvements some states have experienced, exact reasons for the discrepancies remain elusive.

New Jersey’s positive results are likely due to a “convergence of factors,” including state policies followed consistently over the course of several different administrations, said Ciro Scalera, director of the Association of Children of New Jersey.

“We are consistently one of the top spending states on aid to education,” Scalera said, noting that the more degrees parents have the less likely their children are to grow up poor.

Scalera also cites New Jersey’s “fairly consistent” approach to welfare reform since 1987 — an approach he says that has successfully moved many parents into jobs.

Those and other factors have combined with a diversified economy that has bounced back well after the recessions of the early 1980s and 1990s, Scalera said.

In the 15 years between 1979 and 1993, millions of American children became poor, as the poverty rate grew from 16.2 percent to a historic peak of 22.5 percent. Despite improvements in many states since 1993, 17, clustered mostly in the South and West, still have child poverty rates above 20 percent.

Fifteen states have seen child poverty continue to climb during the current boom. North Dakota’s child poverty rate has exploded since 1993, from 13.5 percent to 20.6 percent. Georgia has seen poverty among those under 18 climb 29.4 percent. Oregon’s rate has shot up 25 percent.

The other states bucking the national trend are: Alabama, Colorado, Delaware, Hawaii, Idaho, Iowa, Montana, Nebraska, North Carolina, Texas, Arizona and New Mexico.

The national poverty level today is $17,050 for a family of four and $14,150 for a family of three.

For more information, contact the NCCP, (212) 304-7100, and on the Web at http://cpmcnet.columbia.edu/dept/nccp/.