Arkansas General Assembly

68th Annual Meeting of the Southern Legislative Conference

Southern Legislative Conference of The Council of State Governments
P.O. Box 98129
Atlanta, GA 30359
(404) 633-1866
www.slcatlanta.org

Serving the South

Little Rock
JULY 26-30, 2014
BIG THINGS HAPPEN HERE.
Dear Delegates,

As Chair of the Southern Legislative Conference, it is my pleasure to welcome you to Little Rock, Arkansas. This year’s Annual Meeting offers a host of opportunities to explore issues of significance to policymakers across the region, as well as showcase the spectacular attractions found in our capital city and state.

As a Southerner, I am especially appreciative of our region’s rich character. I recognize the strong sense of place we share, our region’s ability to adjust to rapidly increasing populations, shifting resources and globalization, and I am humbled by our resilience when faced with natural disasters and the unexpected. This week you will have access to numerous substantive sessions, policy experts and presenters who will help connect the dots on important policy issues and, at the same time, reinforce what we all know – that the South is one of the Nation’s most vibrant regions.

As we continue a tradition of excellence that has established the SLC Annual Meeting as the best attended and most anticipated regional meeting of its kind in the country, I remind you of our state motto, Regnat Populus – The People Rule – which aptly describes our charge as public servants and our important role within the SLC.

Please enjoy the outpouring of hospitality you will receive from our community of legislators, legislative staff and volunteers during your stay with us.

I encourage you to share ideas and solutions with your colleagues while here in Little Rock and continue the discussions we hold here in your home state. Once again, welcome to the 68th Annual Meeting of the Southern Legislative Conference.

Senator Keith M. Ingram, Arkansas
SLC Chair, 2013-14

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CHAIR ELECT</th>
<th>VICE CHAIR</th>
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<tr>
<td>Speaker David Ralston, Georgia</td>
<td>Senate President Robert Stivers II, Kentucky</td>
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<tr>
<th>IMMEDIATE PAST CHAIR</th>
<th>DIRECTOR</th>
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<tr>
<td>Speaker Mike Hubbard, Alabama</td>
<td>Ms. Colleen Cousineau</td>
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About the Annual Meeting

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LOCATIONS

SLC committee meetings and workshops will be held at the Little Rock Marriott Hotel and the Statehouse Convention Center, except where noted otherwise.

The SLC/Mark Norris Campaign Against Hunger Food Packaging Event will take place in Governor’s Hall I, next to annual meeting registration in the Statehouse Convention Center.

Committee technical tours will depart on Tuesday at noon from the front of the Little Rock Marriott.

CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION (CLE)

Attending substantive committee sessions of the SLC Annual Meeting may qualify for Continuing Legal Education credits in your state. Substantive committee sessions are identified with a superscript \textsuperscript{CLE} following the session title. Forms and instructions are available at registration on the CLE table. For additional details, contact Lauren Greer in the SLC Policy Staff Office (Pope Room) or at lgreer@csg.org.
DIRECTORY

Little Rock Marriott
3 Statehouse Plaza ........................................... (501) 906-4000

Capital Hotel
111 West Markham Street .................................... (501) 374-7474

Transportation ................................................... (501) 372-1264

SLC Staff Office
Izard, Statehouse Convention Center ........... (501) 975-5110

Host State Staff Office
Caraway, Statehouse Convention Center ...... (501) 975-5110

Youth Center
Pinnacle, Little Rock Marriott ......................... (501) 399-8091

Guest Lounge
Hoffman, Little Rock Marriott ......................... (501) 399-8092

Security
Manning, Little Rock Marriott ......................... (501) 399-8093

ATTIRE

Attire for committee meetings is business casual. Attire for family and guest activities is casual unless otherwise indicated. Attire for the State Dinner is business formal.

ETHICS

The ethics laws in some states prohibit or limit the value of gifts to legislators and legislative staff. If it is a violation of your state’s ethics laws to accept or use any of these gifts, you may return them or pass them along.

OPEN MEETINGS

All publicized SLC committee sessions are open to all registrants regardless of formal committee appointments or affiliations.

ALCOHOL

The Council of State Governments advocates the responsible use of alcohol and designated drivers by all participants at CSG functions.
## Meeting at a Glance

### Saturday, July 26

**Day at a Glance**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
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<td>Legislative Service Agency Workshop</td>
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</tr>
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<td>3:00 p.m.</td>
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### Sunday, July 27

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<tr>
<td>7:30 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Registration Statehouse Convention Center Rotunda</td>
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**Morning**

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Legislative Service Agency Workshop</td>
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**Midday**

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<tr>
<td>1:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Legislative Service Agency Workshop</td>
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**Afternoon**

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<tr>
<td>3:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Executive Committee</td>
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**Evening**

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<td>8:00 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Committee Breakfasts AGRICULTURE &amp; RURAL DEVELOPMENT, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT &amp; CULTURAL AFFAIRS, TRANSPORTATION &amp; EDUCATION</td>
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<td>noon - 1:45 p.m.</td>
<td>LEGISLATIVE FISCAL PLENARY LUNCHEON</td>
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<td>FAMILY NIGHT HEIFER VILLAGE</td>
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## Meeting at a Glance

### MONDAY
**JULY 28**

- **8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.**
  - **Registration**
  - Statehouse Convention Center Rotunda

- **8:00 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.**
  - **Committee Breakfasts**
  - FISCAL AFFAIRS & GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS (FAGO)
  - HUMAN SERVICES & PUBLIC SAFETY

- **10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.**
  - **OPENING PLENARY SESSION**

- **noon - 1:30 p.m.**
  - Comparative Data Reports Presentations
  - FAGO

- **noon - 2:00 p.m.**
  - Committee Luncheons
  - EDUCATION
  - ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT

- **3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.**
  - Committee Programs
  - AGRICULTURE & RURAL DEVELOPMENT
  - ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, TRANSPORTATION & CULTURAL AFFAIRS

- **5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.**
  - Policy Positions Committee

- **9:00 p.m. - 11:30 p.m.**
  - GEORGIA ON MY MIND RECEPTION for SLC2015

### TUESDAY
**JULY 29**

- **8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.**
  - **Registration**
  - Statehouse Convention Center Rotunda

- **8:00 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.**
  - **CLOSING PLENARY & BUSINESS BREAKFAST SESSION**

- **noon - 3:30 p.m.**
  - Committee Technical Tours

- **noon - 3:30 p.m.**
  - **State Transformation in Action Recognition (STAR) Program Selection Panel**

- **12:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.**
  - Host State Programming
  - Delta Regional Authority
  - Felony Arrests and DNA Collection

- **6:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.**
  - **RECEPTION & STATE DINNER**

### WEDNESDAY
**JULY 30**

- **DEPARTURES**
  - (no meetings)
### 68th Annual Meeting of the Southern Legislative Conference

**Saturday, July 26**

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<tr>
<td>9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.</td>
<td><strong>Legislative Service Agency Workshop</strong>&lt;br&gt;&lt;br&gt;<strong>Presiding:</strong> Marty Garrity, Director, Bureau of Legislative Research, Arkansas; Legislative Service Agency Directors Group Chair&lt;br&gt;Arkansas State Capitol (Transportation provided)&lt;br&gt;&lt;br&gt;The Supreme Court and the States&lt;br&gt;Lisa Soronen, Executive Director, State and Local Legal Center, Washington, D.C.&lt;br&gt;&lt;br&gt;New Member Orientation&lt;br&gt;Ann Cornwell, Director, Senate; Secretary of the Senate, Arkansas&lt;br&gt;Caroline Dennis, Director of Legislative Operations, Senate, Oklahoma&lt;br&gt;&lt;br&gt;Experiences of New Research Division Directors&lt;br&gt;&lt;br&gt;Moderator: Aaron Allred, Legislative Auditor, Legislative Manager, West Virginia&lt;br&gt;Marty Garrity, Director, Bureau of Legislative Research, Arkansas&lt;br&gt;Marcia Seiler, Acting Director, Legislative Research Commission, Kentucky&lt;br&gt;&lt;br&gt;Capitol Space Allocation&lt;br&gt;Debra Myers, Facilities Director, Georgia Building Authority</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.</td>
<td><strong>Executive Committee Meeting</strong>&lt;br&gt;&lt;br&gt;<strong>Presiding:</strong> Senator Keith M. Ingram, Arkansas; SLC Chair&lt;br&gt;Salon A, Ballroom Level, Little Rock Marriott&lt;br&gt;&lt;br&gt;Clinton School of Public Service:&lt;br&gt;Vision, Mission &amp; Values&lt;br&gt;James L. “Skip” Rutherford, Dean, Clinton School of Public Service, University of Arkansas</td>
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<tr>
<td>7:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.</td>
<td><strong>Opening Reception and Dinner</strong>&lt;br&gt;at the Old State House Museum</td>
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In 2010, the U. S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) began a pilot program in Arkansas, Georgia, and Mississippi to partner with community organizations and other stakeholders to encourage development and address persistent poverty in these states. Since 2010, the Strike Force pilot program has grown into an initiative working in more than 700 counties across 20 states, including all 15 SLC states. Strike Force community-based partnerships bring together rural communities with existing resources to facilitate economic growth, increased investments and opportunities in these areas. This session features an overview of the Strike Force Initiative and highlights some of the program’s successes in the host state.

Latrice Hill, National Manager, Strike Force for Rural Growth and Opportunity; Director of Outreach, Farm Service Agency, USDA, Washington, D.C.
8:00 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.  
**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, TRANSPORTATION & CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE BREAKFAST** CLE

**Presiding:** Senator Bill Sample, Arkansas; Committee Chair  
Salon B, Ballroom Level, Little Rock Marriott

**Leveraging Manufacturing to Expand Economic Growth in Arkansas**

Since the end of the Great Recession, there have been encouraging signs that America’s manufacturing sector is experiencing a renaissance. In the aftermath of the Great Recession, and given that the manufacturing sector in the United States has been in a state of decline for a number of decades, a turnaround of this sector’s contribution to gross domestic product is most encouraging. This session focuses on the critical role states have been playing to advance this renaissance in the United States while understanding that a flourishing manufacturing sector is an indispensable ingredient in ensuring the vitality of the American economy.

*Grant Tennille, Executive Director, Economic Development Commission, Arkansas*

**Funding Transportation in the States: Challenges and Strategies**

Federal and state policymakers face numerous challenges in adequately funding transportation. The growing imbalance between transportation authorizations and motor fuel tax revenues has forced the federal government to rely on the General Fund to finance essential expenditures, and states also face similar challenges and a widening gap between revenue and expenditures. This session focuses on the specific actions initiated in recent years to finance essential transportation and infrastructure projects; lessons learned from these strategies; alternate financing mechanisms for consideration by state policymakers; and recommendations for the new federal reauthorization to better prepare our entire transportation system to handle increasing consumer demand.

*Scott Bennett, Director, State Highway and Transportation Department, Arkansas*  
*Sherri H. LeBas, Secretary, Department of Transportation and Development, Louisiana*
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, TRANSPORTATION & CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE BREAKFAST CLE

Presiding: Senator Bill Sample, Arkansas; Committee Chair
Salon B, Ballroom Level, Little Rock Marriott

Crystal Bridges: Revitalizing Arkansas’s Cultural and Economic Landscape

The Bilbao Effect has been studied throughout the world, as small cities seek to reinvent themselves by introducing museums featuring cutting-edge architecture and world-class art and programs. An example of this development is emerging in Bentonville, Arkansas, with the opening of the Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art in 2011. This session’s focus is on the Museum’s growth and adherence to its mission of bringing great works of art to a part of the country that previously had been hundreds of miles from the nearest national museum; the impact in terms of attendance, revenue, and impact on the local area, both in terms of the economy and reputation; the feasibility of the Crystal Bridges model being replicated in similar settings in other parts of the country; and what lessons have been learned.

Rod Bigelow, Executive Director, Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art, Arkansas
EDUCATION COMMITTEE BREAKFAST  

**Presiding:** Senator John Unger II, West Virginia; Committee Chair  
Arkansas Ballroom, Lobby Level, Little Rock Marriott  

**Creating Creative Designs in Education**  
While the workforce is being reimagined and reinvented, schools remain far behind these developments. Emerging designs to align K-12 education with workforce development and higher education, adopting an innovative approach that allows schools to connect with students, and creating life-long learners with the skills and knowledge needed to succeed in the creative economy all are paramount to bringing education in line with the changing workforce. This session focuses on these issues and the interconnectedness between the 21st century workforce and education.  

*Gregory D. Bernas, Chief Engineer, Product Development Office, Toyota Technical Center, Michigan*  
*Mark Schneider, President, College Measures; Vice President, American Institutes for Research, Washington, D.C.*

SLC/MARK NORRIS CAMPAIGN AGAINST HUNGER  
Governor’s Hall I, Statehouse Convention Center  

Today, there are more than 49 million Americans, including 16 million children, classified as food insecure. While this is a national problem, the statistics are higher in the South. In previous years, we have packaged 20,000 meals – this year we’re raising the bar. Together, we will package 50,000 meals for the hungry and food insecure. We hope all SLC participants will join us in this important and compassionate project.
Sunday, July 27

noon - 1:45 p.m.

LEGISLATIVE FISCAL PLENARY LUNCHEON CLE

Presiding: Senator Mark Norris,
Majority Leader, Tennessee;
CSG Chair, 2014; SLC Chair, 2010-11
Salons B & C, Ballroom Level,
Little Rock Marriott

The Evolving Role of Federalism Issues in State Transportation Policy

Recent federal transportation reauthorizations have been very late, stricken by partisan gridlock and funded at inadequate and stagnant levels, resulting in a number of state governments initiating and implementing their own efforts to fund essential transportation and infrastructure projects. Against the backdrop of federalism, key elements of this evolving role for the federal and the different state governments in enacting critical transportation projects; approaches to providing maximum flexibility to the states in the use of federal funds; ensuring that federal funds are being used in the most efficient and effective manner, including promoting the national interest are examined.

FORMER U.S. SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION RODNEY E. SLATER

Former U.S. Secretary of Transportation Rodney E. Slater assists clients in integrating their interests in the overall vision for the transportation system of the 21st Century – a vision he set as transportation secretary to promote a safer, more efficient, environmentally sound and sustainable worldwide transportation infrastructure.

C. KENNETH ORSKI, EDITOR AND PUBLISHER, INNOVATION BRIEFS

Mr. Orski, a public policy consultant and former principal of the Urban Mobility Corporation, has worked professionally in the field of transportation for more than 30 years and, during his 20-year consulting career, has counseled more than 30 state and local jurisdictions on transportation, travel demand, traffic, and transit issues.
2:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. NOMINATING COMMITTEE FOR OFFICERS OF THE CONFERENCE
Marion Meeting Room, Ballroom Level, Little Rock Marriott

3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE PROGRAM SESSION CLE
Presiding: Representative Denny Altes, Arkansas; Committee Chair
Arkansas Ballroom, Lobby Level, Little Rock Marriott

Fueling the Future: Shale Exploration and the SLC States
New technology and low natural gas prices have made many of the Southern region’s major shale reserves a primary focus of energy exploration. In SLC states, this energy boom holds enormous economic potential and the capacity to generate broad-based economic growth across states and the region. Highlighted issues are infrastructure development; preparation of a skilled workforce; long-term environmental concerns; the economic cycle of boom industries; and the challenges facing state legislatures in finding a balance in this arena.

Lawrence Bengal, Director, Oil and Gas Commission, Arkansas
George Sheffer, Vice President of Operations, Fayetteville Shale, Arkansas

Bright Ideas: Infrastructure Development in the Energy Sector
U.S. Energy Secretary Ernest Moniz recently signaled that U.S. energy infrastructure development is a top domestic policy priority, particularly with the surge in U.S. oil and natural gas production. This session focuses on the status of enhancements and improvements to energy infrastructure, the benefits of diversified infrastructure, as well as an examination of the most beneficial infrastructure investments.

Carl Handley, Plant Manager, Flint Creek Power Plant, American Electric Power, Arkansas
Duane Highley, Chief Executive Officer, Arkansas Electric Cooperatives
3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. | HUMAN SERVICES & PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE PROGRAM SESSION

**Presiding:** Senator Emmett W. Hanger, Jr., Virginia; Committee Chair

**Salon A, Ballroom Level, Little Rock Marriott**

**Medicaid Expansion Update**

In January 2014, Arkansas, Kentucky, and West Virginia began operating an expanded Medicaid program to provide coverage for adults with an income of up to 138 percent of the Federal Poverty Level. With the expansion of Medicaid still under consideration in some states, this session highlights the expansion efforts of these three SLC member states and examines the nuances of each of their slightly different models for how the program could be expanded.

Andrew Allison, Ph.D., Director, Division of Medical Services, Arkansas
Eric Friedlander, Deputy Secretary, Cabinet for Health and Family Services, Kentucky
Jeremiah Samples, Deputy Cabinet Secretary, Department of Health and Human Resources, West Virginia

**The Rising Cost of Prison Healthcare**

A recent report published by The PEW Charitable Trust found that in recent years an intersection between the rising costs of both healthcare and corrections no longer means that these concerns are mutually exclusive. This session features a discussion on the growing cost of prison healthcare and the factors contributing to that growth, as well as strategies of SLC member states to address the issue by controlling expenses without sacrificing quality of care.

Matt McKillop, Senior Associate, State Health Care Spending Project, The PEW Charitable Trust, Washington, D.C.
Lauren Sheer, Legislative Director, University of Texas Medical Branch

5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. | CENTER FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF LEADERSHIP SKILLS ALUMNI RECEPTION

**Lafayette Meeting Room, Ballroom Level, Little Rock Marriott**

7:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. | FAMILY NIGHT at HEIFER VILLAGE
8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.  
**REGISTRATION**  
Statehouse Convention Center Rotunda

8:00 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.  
**FISCAL AFFAIRS & GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS COMMITTEE BREAKFAST CLE**

*Presiding:* Representative Randy McDaniel, Oklahoma; Committee Chair  
Arkansas Ballroom, Lobby Level, Little Rock Marriott

**Role of Incentives in State Economic Development Projects**

Given the tremendous pressure to ensure that public finances are expended most efficiently, there is a great deal of interest among policymakers to learn more about the role played by incentives in both recruiting and retaining companies. Based on national research, the role of economic incentives in economic development projects; where incentives rank in specific site selections by companies looking to relocate or expand their operations; the ranking of the factors in a company’s relocation or expansion decisions; and instances when incentives count are highlighted during this session.

*Patrick McHugh, Ph.D., Fiscal Research Division, General Assembly, North Carolina*

**Public Pension Funding Trends**

Among the multiple difficulties looming on the state fiscal horizon, public pensions continue to be one of the most challenging issues, confronting every state and local government in the country. This discussion focuses on the latest trends associated with public pension plans as reflected in the 2013 State Pension Funding Review prepared by Loop Capital; state rankings in terms of their funding positions and measures enacted over time to accomplish this status; reforms to rehabilitate pension systems in recent years, including specific actions; and some of the critical issues that policymakers should confront to enhance the funding position of their pension systems.

*Chris Mier, Managing Director, Analytical Services Division, Loop Capital, Illinois*
Mental Health Reforms

During the recent economic downturn, mental health services became one of the many state service areas widely affected by budget reductions, ranging from cuts to staffing, to a reduction or elimination of services provided. During the last few years, however, a number of different factors have prompted states to reexamine the array of mental health services being provided. As states begin to reconstitute their mental health programs, they will have an opportunity to reform the way these services are delivered. This session features a review of the action taken by SLC states during their recent legislative sessions and highlights some of the successful mental health initiatives already being implemented in the Southern region.

Sita Diehl, Director of State Policy and Advocacy, National Alliance on Mental Illness, Virginia
OPENING PLENARY SESSION
Grand Ballroom, Ballroom Level,
Little Rock Marriott

Bill Courtney
President and CEO,
Classic American Hardwoods; Former Volunteer Football Coach,
Manassas High School

In 2003, William B. Courtney (Bill) began to volunteer at Memphis’ inner city Manassas High School in an effort to turn around its underperforming football team. In 2003, the team consisted of 19 players, and the team’s overall previous 10-year record was a dismal 4-95. In the 2008 and 2009 seasons, the team’s record improved to 18-2, boasted 75 players, and helped bring hope to countless underprivileged, inner city youth. The story was so compelling that a Hollywood film was produced about it, winning the 2012 Academy Award for Best Feature Length Documentary.

Bill is president and CEO of Classic American Hardwoods, a startup company founded in 2001 which has grown to employ 120 people, with a 45-acre manufacturing facility and domestic sales offices in Memphis and international sales offices in Shanghai, China and Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam. He also is one of the founders of the Sigma Nu Charity Bowl, which now has grown to be the largest Greek philanthropy project in the United States.

In 2011, Bill was inducted into Bridge Builders for leadership in diversity, community and justice. He was the 2012 recipient of the Liberty Bowl’s Harry Zinn Spirit of 1776 Award for distinguished citizenship, recipient of the Carnival Memphis’ King’s Award for outstanding achievement in Business and Industry, and the National Football Foundation and College Hall of Fame Memphis chapter’s award winner for The Distinguished American for Contribution to Amateur Athletics.
Monday, July 28

noon - 1:30 p.m.

COMPARATIVE DATA REPORTS PRESENTATIONS CLE

Presiding: Representative Randy McDaniel, Oklahoma; Fiscal Affairs & Government Operations Committee Chair
Ballroom, Capital Hotel
(across the street from the Marriott)

These reports are prepared annually by legislative staff in four SLC states: Arkansas, Kentucky, Louisiana and West Virginia. The genesis of some of these reports date back more than 30 years and they track a multitude of revenue sources, performance measures, program indices and appropriations levels in our states. They remain an invaluable tool for both legislators and legislative staff in reaching policy decisions.

**Education**
Hank Hager, Legislative Counsel, Senate, West Virginia

**Medicaid**
Shawn Hotstream, Legislative Fiscal Office, Louisiana

**Revenue**
Andrea Barksdale, Bureau of Legislative Research, Arkansas

**Transportation**
John Snyder, Legislative Research Commission, Kentucky

**Adult Correctional Systems**
Stephanie Blanchard, Legislative Fiscal Office, Louisiana
noon - 2:00 p.m.  

EDUCATION COMMITTEE LUNCHEON  

CLE  

Presiding: Senator John Unger II,  
West Virginia; Committee Chair  
Arkansas Ballroom, Lobby Level,  
Little Rock Marriott  

Application of Neuroscience on Education Policy  

Recent developments in the scientific field of neuroscience have potential applications in education policy to determine what teaching techniques and learning environments can produce the best student outcomes. This session focuses on some of these new breakthroughs and features policy experts concentrating on these groundbreaking studies.  

Mariale Hardiman, Ed.D., Director, Neuro-Education Initiative, The Johns Hopkins University, Maryland  
Ronald E. Kalil, Ph.D., Director, Neuroscience and Public Policy Program, University of Wisconsin-Madison  

Early Education Policy  

As the evidence builds for the benefits of early childhood education, states are struggling to expand opportunities for 4-year-olds to participate in high-quality programs. Program design, participation, and funding remain areas of consideration and concern for state policymakers. This session examines the challenges and opportunities facing states.  

W. Steven Barnett, Ph.D., Board of Governors Professor, Graduate School of Education, Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey  
Bruce Atchison, Executive Director of Policy and Operations, Education Commission of the States, Colorado
Monday, July 28

noon - 2:00 p.m.

ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE LUNCHEON

Presiding: Representative Denny Altes, Arkansas; Committee Chair
Wally Allen Ballroom B, Statehouse Convention Center

Grid Security: Protecting America’s Power

Protecting the nation’s electricity grid is a critical national security issue. Evidence collected by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security suggests that cyber attacks on key energy infrastructure – and on the electricity system in particular – are increasing, both in frequency and sophistication. While our federal and state governments and industry are aware of these issues, preventing and mitigating such threats require comprehensive and coordinated strategies across many sectors, both public and private, requiring extensive resources. This discussion focuses on standards, best practices and measures state policymakers can initiate to increase their preparedness and protect a resource vital to the lives of all U.S. citizens.

Curt Hebert, Visiting Scholar, Bipartisan Policy Center, Washington, D.C.
Michael Hightower, Distinguished Member of the Technical Staff, Military and Energy Systems Analysis, Sandia National Laboratories, New Mexico
Food and Drug Administration and the Food Safety Modernization Act

Since the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) was signed into law in January 2011, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has been engaged in a lengthy rulemaking process. The FDA is expected to release its second attempt at proposed rule language for produce safety and preventative controls for human food in the near future. This session includes a panel of participants providing a federal, state, and individual perspective on the impact of FSMA rules and reforms.

Jeff A. Farrar, Director of Intergovernmental Affairs and Partnerships, Office of Foods & Veterinary Medicine, Food and Drug Administration, Maryland
Joe Reardon, Assistant Commissioner, Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, North Carolina
Representative Jeff Wardlaw, Arkansas

2014 Farm Bill

In February 2014, a prolonged period of negotiations and an extension of the expiring 2008 Farm Bill culminated in the passage of the long-awaited Agriculture Act of 2014. In addition to authorizing agriculture programs for the years 2014 through 2018, the 2014 Farm Bill also authorizes programs for conservation, energy, forestry, and nutrition, among others. While continuing many of the programs from previous farm bills, the 2014 Farm Bill also made significant changes to the components and structure. Primarily focusing on the commodities and conservation titles, this session highlights some of the most notable provisions of the 2014 Farm Bill and seeks to answer questions regarding the changes expected to have the largest impact on the SLC states.

Karis T. Gutter, Deputy Under Secretary, Farm and Foreign Agricultural Services, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C.
Michael Sullivan, State Conservationist, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, Arkansas
(continued) AGRICULTURE & RURAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE PROGRAM SESSION CLE

Presiding: Representative Andy Anders, Louisiana; Committee Chair
Salon A, Ballroom Level, Little Rock Marriott

State Rural Policy Initiative

As national support for rural development continues to decline, the State Rural Policy Initiative is a project of the Rural Policy Research Institute that seeks to provide rural policy leaders with the tools and resources necessary to facilitate economic and rural growth at the state level. This session highlights the initiative’s newly adopted policy of work and the resources it can offer to rural policymakers.

David Terrell, Chair, Rural State Policy Panel, Rural Policy Research Institute, Missouri
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, TRANSPORTATION & CULTURAL AFFAIRS PROGRAM SESSION (CLE)

Presiding: Senator Bill Sample, Arkansas; Committee Chair

Salon B, Ballroom Level, Little Rock Marriott

Pathways to Prosperity: Southern State Efforts to Prepare a 21st Century Workforce

Policymakers across the country are realizing that companies looking to relocate or expand in a particular region are extremely interested in ensuring that a highly skilled and competitive workforce is readily available. Some of the strategies that SLC states have pursued and how effective have they been in recent years; the evolving role of technical colleges in these states in creating this 21st century workforce; and additional measures that will prove effective in the future to maintain this competitive edge are highlighted during this session.

Senator Mark Norris, Majority Leader, Tennessee
William C. Wampler, Jr., Executive Director, New College Institute, Virginia
Dr. Glen Fenter, President, Mid-South Community College, Arkansas

Advancing Logistics and Supply Chain Efforts in the 21st Century: Strategies for Policymakers to Consider

In an era of intense competition from different sectors of the globe amidst just-in-time delivery pressures, there is tremendous importance placed on cities, states and regions developing efficient logistics and supply chain systems. Memphis, Tennessee, maintains a reputation as one of the most advanced logistics and distribution hubs in the world. Factors critical in Memphis clinching this reputation; past and ongoing investments by policymakers; the role public-private partnerships play in this growth; and the role of academic institutions in advancing research in supply chain management and logistics serve as the cornerstones for this session.

Russell Gwatney, President, Gwatney Enterprises, Inc., Tennessee
Monday, July 28

5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. | POLICY POSITIONS COMMITTEE
Lafayette Meeting Room, Ballroom Level, Little Rock Marriott

5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. | SLC EXECUTIVE RECEPTION
(by invitation only)

9:00 p.m. - 11:30 p.m. | GEORGIA ON MY MIND
SLC 2015 RECEPTION
Wally Allen Ballroom, Statehouse Convention Center
69th Annual Meeting of the Southern Legislative Conference
July 18 - 22, 2015

Savannah looks forward to welcoming back the Southern Legislative Conference. Named one of the “Top Ten Cities in the U.S. to Visit” by a variety of national travel, food and lifestyle publications and websites, Savannah offers a unique and authentic historic experience while blending in a vibrant and fun atmosphere for all.
8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. | REGISTRATION
Statehouse Convention Center Rotunda

8:00 a.m. - 9:30 a.m. | CLOSING PLENARY & BUSINESS BREAKFAST SESSION
Salon B & C, Ballroom Level, Little Rock Marriott

Joe Quinn
Senior Director, Public Affairs and Government Relations, Walmart

Walmart is the largest retail store in the United States, serving 140 million customers weekly with more than 200 million transactions. From its start in a modest building in Rogers, Arkansas, in 1962, Walmart has grown to operate under 69 banners in 27 countries.

During his time at Walmart, Joe Quinn has helped manage the company commitment to hire 100,000 veterans over five years, has worked in the Walmart Benefits Division that makes company benefits available to 1.3 million associates, and has helped lead the company’s effort to make healthier food more accessible and affordable for all families.

In 2006, Quinn was part of the Walmart team that rolled out the innovative $4 generic drug program that changed the national healthcare landscape by saving customers billions of dollars. For that work, Quinn was a co-winner of the 2007 Walmart Sam Walton Entrepreneurial Award.

Before joining Walmart in 2006, Quinn was director of policy for former Arkansas Governor Mike Huckabee. In 2002, Quinn was director of communications for the successful Huckabee gubernatorial reelection campaign.

In 2010, he co-chaired a successful community campaign to raise $70 million in new funding for the Bentonville School District.
Tuesday, July 29

9:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.  EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE BUSINESS SESSION  

Presiding: Senator Keith M. Ingram, Arkansas; SLC Chair  
Salon A, Ballroom Level, Little Rock Marriott  
(meets immediately after the Closing Plenary Session)

noon - 3:30 p.m.  COMMITTEE TECHNICAL TOURS  

Depart from the front of the Little Rock Marriott; casual attire; lunch is provided.

Agriculture & Rural Development  
Gillam Farms  
In 1999, Arkansas House Speaker-Designate Jeremy Gillam began learning on the job to take over operations from his father at the family’s 80-acre farm in Judsonia, Arkansas. In the last 15 years, Gillam Farms has expanded to more than 700 acres, where the family produces a variety of fruits and vegetables, including 300 acres of blackberries. In addition to being a leading commercial farming operation, Gillam Farms is an old-fashioned family farm where visitors can pick their own berries straight from the cane or visit the on-site store. This technical tour allows members to observe the operations of one of the nation’s largest blackberry growers and learn how this produce farm is adapting to new food safety rules and regulations.

Economic Development, 
Transportation & Cultural Affairs  
Advancing Multimodal Transportation Strategies in Arkansas  
This technical tour includes a water tour of the Arkansas River and a briefing on the infrastructure upgrades in progress on the River to facilitate more efficient multimodal transportation methods. Committee members next visit the Union Pacific Rail Engine facility, the company’s largest and most modern locomotive servicing facility and the only location in the country where Union Pacific engines are overhauled. The briefing at Union Pacific includes a tour and details on the facility’s role in the state’s manufacturing base and in promoting multimodal transportation.  

Gene Higginbotham, Executive Director, 
Arkansas Waterways Commission
noon - 3:30 p.m. **COMMITTEE TECHNICAL TOURS**

*Depart from the front of the Little Rock Marriott; casual attire; lunch is provided.*

**Energy & Environment**

*White Bluff Electric Steam Station*

The White Bluff facility is a cooperative venture that has generated power for Arkansas since 1980, burning low-sulfur coal to produce 1,659 megawatts of electricity. The 3,500-acre site includes 70 acres for storage of more than 1 million tons of coal. The plant’s boilers are rated at 6 million pounds of steam per hour and can burn 1,000 tons of coal an hour at full load. The plant features two 400-foot tall natural draft cooling towers, a 1,000-foot tall stack, and a complex coal handling system. This technical tour provides an excellent opportunity to see what is at the other end of the power lines when you flip on the light switch, featuring the power plant, boiler and control room, and briefings from officials at the facility.

noon - 3:30 p.m. **SLC STAR PROGRAM SELECTION BOARD**

*Arkansas Ballroom, Lobby Level, Little Rock Marriott*

The STAR Program identifies and promotes innovative ideas and programs from the Southern region’s best problem solvers: the states themselves. The SLC welcomes applications from a wide array of state agencies, departments, and institutions operating within the executive, legislative, and judicial governmental branches. Following a review process, finalists are invited to present at the SLC annual meeting, and two exceptional programs are selected by a board of experienced policy professionals as models of efficiency and effectiveness in state governments in the Southern region.

- **West Virginia** - Office of Nutrition
- **Alabama** - School-Based Vaccination Clinics
- **Oklahoma** - Offender Screening Program
- **Virginia** - DMV Connect
- **Georgia** - GStat System
- **Tennessee** - General Assembly Dashboard
### Tuesday, July 29

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tr>
<td>12:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.</td>
<td><strong>HOST STATE PROGRAMMING: LUNCHEON</strong>&lt;br&gt;Salon A, Ballroom Level, Little Rock Marriott&lt;br&gt;&lt;br&gt;Delta Regional Authority&lt;br&gt;The Delta Regional Authority (DRA), a federal-state partnership that serves communities in 252 counties and parishes along the lower Mississippi River and in the Alabama Black Belt, has found success with an approach of increasing regional collaboration and growth through targeted investments into local and state economic and community development efforts. In order to ensure that well-paying, medium to high-skilled jobs are available to workers in the Delta region, DRA is teaming up with its state and local partners to identify strategies that will strengthen the workforce training and education systems and improve skill levels of workers in Delta states. States in the DRA (Alabama, Arkansas, Illinois, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, and Tennessee) are invited to attend this information session.&lt;br&gt;&lt;br&gt;<em>Christopher A. Masingill, Federal Co-Chair, Delta Regional Authority, Mississippi</em></td>
<td>Salon A, Ballroom Level, Little Rock Marriott</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.</td>
<td><strong>HOST STATE PROGRAMMING: LUNCHEON CLE</strong>&lt;br&gt;Salon B, Ballroom Level, Little Rock Marriott&lt;br&gt;&lt;br&gt;Felony Arrests and DNA Collection&lt;br&gt;As technology continues to advance, questions arise as to how best to harness the power of science while protecting the rights of U.S. citizens, such as the role of DNA in our criminal justice system. All 50 states have mandated that a DNA sample be collected and uploaded into state and national forensic DNA databases upon conviction for a felony crime. Twenty-eight states, including 11 SLC states, now require a DNA sample be collected at the time of certain felony arrests. Four SLC states require collection at the time of all felony arrests and several others currently are considering this policy. This session focuses on the status of legislation in the United States.&lt;br&gt;&lt;br&gt;<em>Jayann Sepich, Co-founder, DNA Saves, New Mexico</em></td>
<td>Salon B, Ballroom Level, Little Rock Marriott</td>
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<td>6:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.</td>
<td><strong>CLOSING RECEPTION &amp; STATE DINNER</strong>&lt;br&gt;Wally Allen Ballroom, Statehouse Convention Center</td>
<td>Wally Allen Ballroom, Statehouse Convention Center</td>
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# 68th Annual Meeting of the Southern Legislative Conference

## SLC Staff / Host State Committee

### Staff of the Southern Legislative Conference

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Colleen Cousineau</td>
<td>SLC Director; Deputy Executive Director, The Council of State Governments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sujit M. Canagaratna</td>
<td>Fiscal Policy Manager</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mikko Lindberg</td>
<td>Policy Analyst</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lori Moore</td>
<td>Director of Operations and Programs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lauren Greer</td>
<td>Policy Analyst</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anne Roberts</td>
<td>Policy Analyst</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seth Bailey</td>
<td>Research and Publications Associate</td>
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<tr>
<td>Neil Johnson</td>
<td>Operations Coordinator</td>
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### 68th Annual Meeting Adjunct Staff

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Susan Lanter</td>
<td>The Council of State Governments</td>
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<tr>
<td>Joan Minton</td>
<td>Consultant</td>
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### Host State Committee

#### Senate
- **Senate President**
  - Pro Tem Michael Lamoureux
  - Co-Chair
- **Senator Linda Chesterfield**
- **Senator Joyce Elliott**
- **Senator Jane English**
- **Senator Keith M. Ingram**
- **Senator Missy Irvin**
- **Senator David Johnson**
- **Senator Bill Sample**
- **Senator David Sanders**
- **Senator Eddie Joe Williams**

#### House
- **Speaker Davy Carter**
  - Co-Chair
- **Representative Eddie L. Armstrong**
- **Representative Ken Bragg**
- **Representative Mary Broadaway**
- **Representative John Burris**
- **Representative Ann V. Clemmer**
- **Representative Andy Davis**
- **Representative John Charles Edwards**
- **Representative Mary P. “Prissy” Hickerson**
- **Representative Joe Jett**
- **Representative Patti Julian**
- **Representative Nate Steel**
- **Representative Darrin Williams**

### Host State Director of Events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Diane B. Ayres</td>
<td>Arkansas House of Representatives</td>
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</table>
# 2013-14 SLC Executive Committee

## CHAIR

Senator Keith M. Ingram, Arkansas

## CHAIR ELECT

Speaker David Ralston, Georgia

## VICE CHAIR

Senate President Robert Stivers II, Kentucky

## IMMEDIATE PAST CHAIR

Speaker Mike Hubbard, Alabama

## ALABAMA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Senate President Pro Tem</th>
<th>Speaker Mike Hubbard</th>
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<tr>
<td>Del Marsh</td>
<td>Speaker Pro Tem Victor Gaston</td>
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<td>Senator Gerald Dial</td>
<td>Representative James E. Buskey</td>
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<td>Senator Vivian Davis Figures</td>
<td>Representative Randy M. Davis</td>
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<td>Senator Cam Ward</td>
<td>Representative Howard Sanderford</td>
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## ARKANSAS

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## FLORIDA

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<tr>
<th>Senate President</th>
<th>Speaker Will W. Weatherford</th>
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<td>Don W. Gaetz</td>
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## GEORGIA

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<tr>
<th>Senate President Pro Tem</th>
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<tr>
<td>David Shafer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Senator Steve Gooch</td>
<td>Representative Terry L. England</td>
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<td>Senator Jeff Mullis</td>
<td>Representative Larry O’Neal</td>
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## KENTUCKY

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<tr>
<td>Robert Stivers II</td>
<td>Speaker Pro Tem Larry D. Clark</td>
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<td>Senate President Pro Tem</td>
<td>Representative Jody Richards</td>
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<td>Katie Kratz Stine</td>
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<td>Senator Damon Thayer</td>
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</table>
### 68th Annual Meeting of the Southern Legislative Conference

#### 2013-14 SLC Executive Committee

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<tr>
<th>LOUISIANA</th>
<th>MISSISSIPPI</th>
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<th>NORTH CAROLINA</th>
<th>OKLAHOMA</th>
<th>SOUTH CAROLINA</th>
<th>TENNESSEE</th>
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</table>
| Senate President
  John A. Alario, Jr.
  Senate President Pro Tem
  Sharon Weston Broome | Speaker Chuck Kleckley
  Speaker Pro Tem Walt Leger III | Lieutenant Governor
  Tate Reeves
  Senate President Pro Tem
  Terry W. Brown
  Senator Sampson Jackson II
  Senator J. P. Wilemon, Jr. | Speaker Philip Gunn
  Speaker Pro Tem
  Greg Snowden | Senate President Pro Tem
  Tom Dempsey | Speaker Timothy W. Jones
  Representative Kevin Austin
  Representative Marsha Haefner |
| Senate President Pro Tem
  Philip E. Berger
  Senator Tom Apodaca | Speaker Thom Tillis
  Representative Julia C. Howard
  Representative Timothy
  Douglas Moffitt | Senate President Pro Tem
  Brian Bingman
  Senator Cliff B. Brannan
  Senator Clark Jolley | Speaker Jeffrey W. Hickman
  Representative Doug Cox
  Representative
  Randy McDaniel | Senate President Pro Tem
  Hugh K. Leatherman, Sr.
  Senator Harvey S. Peeler, Jr. | Speaker Robert W. Harrell, Jr.
  Representative Liston D. Barfield
  Representative F. Gregory
  “Greg” Delleney, Jr. |
| Lieutenant Governor
  Ron Ramsey
  Speaker Pro Tem Bo Watson
  Senator Douglas Henry
  Senator Mark Norris | Speaker Beth
  Halteman Harwell |
# 2013-14 SLC Executive Committee

## TEXAS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lieutenant Governor</th>
<th>Speaker Joe Straus</th>
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<tr>
<td>David Dewhurst</td>
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<tr>
<td>Senator Juan “Chuy” Hinojosa</td>
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## VIRGINIA

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<tr>
<th>Lieutenant Governor</th>
<th>Speaker William J. Howell</th>
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<tr>
<td>Ralph S. Northam</td>
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<tr>
<td>Senate President Pro Tem</td>
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<tr>
<td>Walter A. Stosch</td>
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<td>Senator Emmett W. Hanger, Jr.</td>
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## WEST VIRGINIA

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<tr>
<th>Senate President</th>
<th>Speaker Timothy Miley</th>
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<tr>
<td>Jeffrey V. Kessler</td>
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<tr>
<td>Senator John R. Unger II</td>
<td>Delegate Harry Keith White</td>
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## EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Representative Andy Anders, Louisiana</th>
<th>Chair, Agriculture &amp; Rural Development Committee</th>
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<tr>
<td>Senator Bill Sample, Arkansas</td>
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<td>Senator John Unger II, West Virginia</td>
<td>Chair, Education Committee</td>
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<tr>
<td>Representative Randy McDaniel, Oklahoma</td>
<td>Chair, Fiscal Affairs &amp; Government Operations Committee</td>
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<tr>
<td>Senator Emmett W. Hanger, Jr., Virginia</td>
<td>Chair, Human Services &amp; Public Safety Committee</td>
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## PAST OFFICERS OF THE SLC SERVING IN THE LEGISLATURE

- Representative Jody Richards, Kentucky (1999-2000)
- Speaker Robert W. Harrell, Jr., South Carolina (2009-2010)
- Senator Mark Norris, Tennessee (2010-2011)
- Speaker Mike Hubbard, Alabama (2012-2013)